

THE Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

"WAIT FOR ME!"

THE picture in which the above entreaty is illustrated is well known to the public. A little girl, probably on her return home from the National School of the village, has stopped to pull up her stocking and tie her garter. Her sisters or companions are supposed to have got some distance in advance of her, and as she remains behind to adjust her loosened hose, she casts forward an anxious glance, half apprehensive, half reproachful, and may well be imagined uttering the cry which, in fact, is the subject of the artist's performance, "Wait for me." The commonness and extreme naturalness of the incident thus depicted, touches, in an instant, the sympathies of the spectator, and impels him ideally to second the remonstrant request of the unready school-girl.

There is a class—we are bound to confess a rather considerable class—of English politicians, which, to our fancy, is aptly typified by the picture just referred to. It consists of Liberals to whom a smart run for party purposes hardly ever fails to occasion some derangement of their professions, or, at any rate, some need of time to brace them up. When they start with their companions on a forward movement, none appear to be more eager than they to reach the goal of a clearly defined principle. They do their running a certain distance with buoyant spirits, and keep up with the foremost of their party. Unfortunately, they have not been careful to look to those sure ties of conviction which should bind close about them the garb which they have donned. Too continuous a strain upon them causes these moral ligatures first to loosen, then to drop off. A pause ensues—a hasty and fumbling effort at making things comfortable—and then a remonstrance addressed to those who have gone ahead, which can only be interpreted by the cry, "Wait for me." At almost every stage of modern political history the same situation is reproduced. The abolition of slavery, the repeal of the corn-laws, the adoption of household suffrage, the acceptance of the principle of the ballot, and several other great political and social achievements, have exhibited to public notice the lagging and—we may add without offence, we trust—slovenly adherents of active Liberalism, not, indeed, directly opposing the

consistent application of their own avowed principles, but, under stress of necessity for further time and a more fitting opportunity, plaintively beseeching their more forward fellow Liberals to tarry till they have come up.

We have not a word of censure to bestow upon those who are taking up this position in reference to the disestablishment of the Church of England. We observe that it is done by the same class of public men, and the same organs of public opinion, which, until Mr. Gladstone announced his views in regard to the Irish Church, were filled with a spirit of oburgation, and launched all sorts of objections against the men who traced out the lines between which the Premier, surrounded by swarms of converts, subsequently pursued his successful career. In truth, it is not so much their state of mind in relation to the question presently to be approached, as their expectation that it ought to rule ours, which draws from us any adverse comment. We know their habits and can make due allowance for them. It cannot be charged against us that we taunted them with that logical slovenliness of theirs which prevents them from keeping up with their radical comrades. But we do think it would befit the memory of their antecedents that they should refrain from repeating against such as are in advance of them the self-same cries of reproach, the self-same charges of rashness, the self-same imputations of mischievous conceit, which, on so many former occasions, have ultimately told heavily against their political prescience.

Two objections have been urged against the motion for disestablishment announced for next Session. The first of these is that it will postpone indefinitely the passing of the Universities Tests Bill. We should be sorry to think so. We can discern no good ground for thinking so. The idea seems to have sprung up in "wait-for-me" quarters, not as an offshoot of well-ascertained facts, but as the birth of a somewhat frightened fancy. The House of Commons, representing the settled determination of the country, has again and again sent up to the House of Lords, a measure tending more or less to laicise—if so we may express ourselves—the constitution and government of the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham, by purging them of their restrictive ecclesiastical elements. The Lords know full well that they cannot much longer maintain their opposition to so mild, and confessedly timely, a legislative project. They must yield to the foremost wave of public opinion without too speculative a regard to that which is behind it. Timidity on the part of the friends of religious equality assuredly has never yet persuaded the Peers to give place to reasonable reforms. The way to confirm them in a stubborn obstructiveness is, not by plying them with too great pressure, but by shrinking from any and every forward movement which they may be expected to resist. The Lords are not so wholly devoid of political sagacity as some journals assume them to be. If they wanted disestablishment to succeed before its time, they might refuse to move in respect of the Universities, in order to stave off any movement in respect of the separation of the Church from the State. They would thereby do the very thing most likely to drive the friends of academical freedom into the ranks of the friends of ecclesiastical equality. But there is not the

smallest cognisable sign that they will be so foolish. The idea has only been mooted, we suspect, to scare those who would prefer being scared.

The second objection is a more serious one. It is said that the motion will embarrass, disorganise, and possibly break up, the Liberal party. Again we say, it will be no gratification to us to think so. But when such a possibility is pointed to as a sufficient reason for abandoning that final enterprise which its friends have been preparing to make through a quarter of a century at least, we are compelled to ask in return, "What is it that the Liberal party contemplates doing?" Nothing but inertness can really decompose the Liberal party. Mere social questions will not keep it together—nor is it of much importance that it should be kept together if one large section of it is to be perpetually shouting to another, "Wait for me." The more Conservatively-inclined in the ranks of political progress need not protest, as some of them loudly have done, against being dragged on with heedless precipitation. They may, it is true, evade thereby the labour and the self-sacrifice requisite for pioneering—they will not acquiescingly forfeit their claims when an apportionment is made of the honours and rewards due to success. The usual course is that others labour, and they enter into their labours. Others plough the ground and sow the seed—they reap the harvest. The chief difficulties they have to encounter are such as are presented by their own disinclination to move on. When they have conquered themselves they have conquered the most formidable kind of resistance. But they will still be dealt with considerably, laggards as they may be. If possible, they will not be left so far behind as to let them drop out of sight. They ought not, however, in common decency, to scream vituperation at those who are in front, and who, over and over again, have quietly witnessed new illustrations of the poet's lines, "*Sic vos, non vobis*," &c. If they can't help, at least let them not hinder.

ECCLIASTICAL NOTES.

AN extremely important ecclesiastical action, which will have considerable influence upon the status of the Established Church in England, has just been taken. Three new colonial bishops were to have been consecrated to-day. The form of consecration involves the oath of obedience being taken to the Archbishop of Canterbury. As far as we can judge, the Archbishop has no power whatever to dispense with this oath, and it is very possible that, without its being administered, the consecration itself would be void. Amongst the new bishops, however, was one for Orange Free State, in the metropolitan diocese of Capetown, and the Bishop of Capetown, now being in this country, declined to allow the proposed new bishop to take the oath of canonical obedience to the Archbishop of Canterbury. Before this decision was arrived at, the question, of course, arose, whether or not the Archbishop was right in insisting upon it. A long and learned correspondence has taken place upon this subject, the principal points of which are involved in the discussion of the actual position of the Free Episcopalian Church of South Africa. The Bishop of Capetown holds that his portion of the Church, not now being established, is to be regarded as a Voluntary religious association. It is bound together only by consensual compact. If the Archbishop were to insist, and could insist, on canonical obedience to himself, the system now established would be gradually destroyed. He

does not want wholly to detach the South African Church from that of England, but he thinks that it is not easy to bring the discipline of a non-Established Church into working harmony with that of an Established one, and his judgment is that oaths should be taken to the Metropolitan of Capetown—that is, to himself. As the Archbishop could not, or would not, give way upon this point, the new bishop has gone to Scotland to be consecrated. We see in this act the important fact of a further withdrawal from the English Establishment of a great Episcopalian Voluntary community, once under subjection to the whole of the ecclesiastical law of this country. Another sign consists in the claims of the Bishop of Capetown, who not only asserts his equality to the Archbishop of Canterbury, but secures it. Thus, one more feather is plucked from the cap of the Establishment.

The Privy Council Committee has disposed of one of its four ecclesiastical cases. Mr. Mackonochie has been suspended for three months and cast in the costs of the suit instituted against him. After the evidence given at the trial, there could scarcely be any doubt as to what would be its issue. It was clearly established that Mr. Mackonochie, in defiance of a previous order, had lifted the elements for adoration, and had himself assumed the attitude of adoration before them. There was, as we remarked last week, a finely devised endeavour literally to obey this order, while virtually breaking it, but it was too transparent, and, if Mr. Mackonochie were not the man that he appears to be, we should say that it was an unworthy and dishonourable subterfuge. The *Times* of yesterday expresses what most men feel about it, when in commenting upon the sermon delivered at St. Alban's on Sunday, during the enforced silence of the incumbent, it says:—

The single lesson we care to deduce from these proceedings, and from the not very decent rhodomontade of the Sunday morning sermon, is that whether the Ritualists be theologically right or wrong, they are at all events at war with the Church of England. Their most cherished practices, representing the doctrine they chiefly prize, are finally condemned. The preacher begged his hearers "to let this truth sink into their hearts, and ask themselves this question,—If the fruits of the tree be such injustice and intolerance as this, what must that tree be?" "That tree" is nothing else than the Church of England as by law established, to which this preacher has sworn allegiance, and of which he is the authorised minister. It was under the shelter of the branches of "that tree" that he was giving the lie to its highest judicial authorities and insulting its laws. It was very necessary, after such language, that he should exhort his hearers to "remember charity." We shall obey his admonition, and we shall only urge that, if he wishes to express such sentiments without compromising his honour, he would do well to emancipate himself from his present obligations to the laws he repudiates. Nobody wishes "to crush him." He is at liberty to-morrow to practise as many flexions and genuflections as he pleases, providing he does so in a building not belonging to the Established Church of England. But we do expect that men who wear the uniform of the Church and speak with its authority will render a loyal obedience to its rules. The present attitude of such men as the clergy of St. Alban's is neither honourable to themselves, nor advantageous to their cause, nor conducive to the interests of religion. The Ritualism of St. Alban's may be right or wrong in itself, but it is certainly wrong when practised at St. Alban's. We trust that during his three months' period of reflection Mr. Mackonochie may come to the same opinion, and either frankly abandon his practices, or abandon the position which renders them so unworthy of him.

The Ritualists, however, have not the slightest intention of "abandoning their position." In this case Mr. Mackonochie recognised the Court by appearing before it, and, having done so, could hardly refuse to obey its decision. Mr. Bennett occupies a different position. He declines to appear before the Court, or to take any steps which may imply that he is ready to submit to its order. The Ritualists, of course, look upon Mr. Mackonochie as a martyr; but in what does the martyrdom consist?

The whole question of the liberty to be allowed to clergymen in the Established Church is involved in these cases. It is taken up with considerable moderation of tone, but decision of thought, in the *Guardian* of last week. Our contemporary rejoices at the fact that there is a decided aversion to any policy which might result in making the Establishment less comprehensive than she is, and it is decidedly pleased with "the varieties within certain limits," which are now allowed. It is, however, of opinion that there must be some limits. We were curious to see what limits are included in this convenient word "some," and we find them stated in the following language:—

That Denn McNeill, Dr. Pusey, and Mr. Maurice should all be retained within the broad fold of a national communion, may be all very well. But the flexibility which admits of this has even now its inconveniences. It is trying, and even scandalous, to have sermons from one pulpit flavoured with the intensest of Orange bitters, whilst in another the Reformation and all its works are denounced as crimes of the deepest dye; to find one publicly commissioned officer of religion anathematising Rome in terms borrowed from the *Apocalypse*, whilst his neighbour long after her as the mother and mistress of all Churches; to attend services in one church which

are stripped to the very bones of all that can warm and inspirit them, whilst in the next street functions which pretend to be the same are disguised and interpolated that a Churchman who is not of the initiated can scarcely tell what is going on. And all this falls the harder upon the laity, because there is no security against sudden changes both in doctrine and ritual being made without their consent being asked or had—changes in which they have the deepest interest, but no voice.

This seems to us to narrow the Church rather considerably. If a clergyman may not preach against Rome in terms borrowed from the *Apocalypse*, what is to become of half the Evangelical party? If the Reformation is not allowed to be denounced, where will the Ritualists be? The *Guardian* would put such limits because the present condition of affairs is "scandalous," and bears dreadfully hard upon the laymen. But has the Establishment ever been, in one way or another, with respect to intolerance, to property, to discipline, or to doctrine, in anything but a "scandalous" state? When have the laity ever had any protection? Does not the *Guardian* know that those things have in great measure caused the alienation of the people from all religion, and sent devout laymen into the ranks of Dissent? There is a way to stop them, but it will not be found while the Church is controlled by the State.

Archdeacon Hale is dead. For nearly half a century this well-known ecclesiastical polemic was perhaps the ablest and most active defender of the legal rights and privileges of the Church in the diocese of London. It is more than thirty years since he published, in the first stage of the controversy, a remarkable pamphlet on Church-rates, and he kept up this controversy to the last. He was a man of learning and ability, and of great and indomitable firmness of opinion. He belonged to the highest Church and Tory school—of the George the Third and Eldon type—and never gave up one of the claims of the Establishment. Some years ago, and then rather frequently, he was the subject of some satirical and some expostulatory articles in consequence of the number of preferments which he held, and calculations were made to show that he was the richest pluralist remaining in the Church. A short time since, however, the Archdeacon disarmed part of this criticism by resigning his valuable living of Cripplegate, while he retained his archdeaconry and canonry and the Charterhouse Mastership. He was altogether, in this and other respects, of the oldest school. The last bishop of that school died when the Bishop of Exeter died, and the last archdeacon died with Archdeacon Hale. Whatever may have been at any time said against him, it is certain that he was consistently faithful to his opinions, and fought for them, as it was right he should, with zeal and with power. But he could hardly have lived happily to this day.

We are not at all surprised to see an announcement in the advertising columns of a Church contemporary that a new Church defence print is to be started. It is to be very local, but local is better than nothing. It is to be entitled the *Devonshire Churchman*, and is to be "a record of Church work, and of the Devonshire Church Institution throughout the county." Besides this, "The *Devonshire Churchman* will steadily oppose the pernicious teaching of those who seek to deprive the Church of her position and property, under the pretence of giving her liberty—and it will uphold order and authority both in Church and State." Others have attempted this, but have come to grief. We have no desire, however, to discourage our new opponent.

Our attention has been directed to a letter relating to Madagascar from Mr. Joseph Sewell, one of the Ministers of the Society of Friends, published in the *Monthly Record* of the Society. Mr. Sewell, who has been in Madagascar for some time, sketches in a clear and interesting manner, the history of Christianity in the island, but it is evident from his letter, as he wishes it to be, that Christianity is in some danger, from the rather too devoted attempts of the rulers to draw the people to a practical profession of it. It appears that in one district which may be about the size of the East Riding, there were, some eighteen months ago, but seven congregations, of which four were "stations" with in all, about six or seven hundred attendants. Now, there are fifty stations, with perhaps an average of attendance of 10,000. Mr. Sewell says:—

This seems a wonderful change, but let us examine the case more closely, and we shall see that in each of these villages there were leading men, responsible to the Government, who believe it to be the part of their duty to see that the people regularly attended the chapel. One such chief who in this way superintends several villages, where not a creature can either read or write, and who sometimes leads five or six hundred to the chapel, has three wives, and has the vaguest idea of what Christianity is. He likes to show his authority, and the people know they are bound to obey him, and as they have now no other *fanompoana* on the Sabbath-day, they consider this their *fanompoana*, and very meekly submit. Another who was not long ago pastor

of a church (he was disowned for divorcing his wife), and who has now great influence in several villages, having married a sister of Radama I., after conversing with me one day with regard to the placing of a teacher in one of his villages, waited till I had left the village, and then led hundreds of people from that and distant villages to a bull fight. This man has been very diligent in pressing the people under his control to build chapels. The writer adds that the pressure of the Government on the people to induce them to go to church, has necessitated the sending out of large numbers of teachers to those places where there were no established Christians before, or where there were none competent to instruct the others.

Mr. Sewell rightly considers these to be "discouraging facts," and that "many will see in this Government interference the germ of future troubles to the Church of Madagascar." It is, in fact, a mild beginning of something very like State-Churchism. With the grand consistency of the Society of Friends, Mr. Sewell protests against this, although such influence as is used is used in connection with a pure religion. Our State-Church friends who are about to send "a bishop" to Madagascar may consider us somewhat fastidious upon this point. Certainly, we cannot imagine a country rector objecting to such proceedings, but we have no desire to see religion and Christianity thus misrepresented and nearly extinguished in Madagascar, as was once done by the State-Church of England.

Our columns show that the Liberation controversy is not likely to diminish. The Stalybridge Churchmen have obtained the assistance of the redoubtable Dr. Massingham—who, we should imagine, would just suit them—and the Nonconformists did not pack the hall nor insult the lecturer. The Leicester conferences were continued last Friday by a most able paper from Mr. Mackenall, formerly of Surbiton, the substance of which we hope to be able to give next week. The *Bradford Observer* contains some capital letters in reply to Mr. Hardy, and our correspondence columns show what is going on at Preston. The sharper the contest the better. We are quite prepared.

THE CHURCH AND STATE QUESTION AT STALYBRIDGE.

As may be supposed, the riotous behaviour of the supporters of the Establishment at the (attempted) lecture of Mr. Carvell Williams, has occasioned a good deal of discussion in the neighbourhood.

The *Ashton Reporter*, in an article on the subject, severely animadvertes on the conduct of the disturbers and their abettors:—

Any person entering the Town Hall of Stalybridge on Thursday evening, would be painfully impressed with the necessity of education and religion radically opposed to those at present in force. We were told that strangers had come a considerable distance to listen to Mr. Williams, having previously read some of his addresses, and having heard of his reputation as a public speaker. Of course they were disappointed, for of course the inevitable Leach, Dixon, Saville, and Co. were there, with their hosts of ignorant, clamouring dupes, to prevent the lecture being heard. We are exceedingly sorry to have to write in this tone respecting our townsmen, but the interests of truth require it. In no part of Africa, amongst no tribe of red-skinned Americans, we think, would it be possible to collect some five or six hundred such thoughtless, reckless, roaring savages as were airing themselves at the Stalybridge Town Hall, under the respectable auspices before mentioned. The boys—for nineteen-twentieths of the audience consisted of youths from seventeen to twenty—roared as if they had been collected for that purpose exclusively, and were doing it for a wager; and some newly-elected members of the Town Council, we regret to say, applauded the performances as if it were some credit to the town. For nearly an hour one of the most popular and gentlemanly platform-speakers in Great Britain was roared at by these horrid nincompoops, as if he had come on a mission inimical to the interests of the people, and contemplated their spiritual and political bandage. Our hope is that the system of national education, which has not come one day too soon, may be the means of curing these people of their unseemly propensities.

The *Ashton News*, which, as well as the *Reporter*, prints in extenso Mr. Williams's intended lecture, says of it, "Upon reading it, most people will arrive at the conclusion that it was much easier to silence Mr. Carvell Williams by brutal noise than to confute him in calm discussion or reply." It also publishes several letters from indignant correspondents.

The sequel to the proceedings is curious; for, having prevented anything being said on the Liberation side, the friends of the Establishment last week had Dr. Massingham to lecture in support of their own views. His lecture was also given in the Town Hall, and, as the Liberationists did not follow the bad example set them by their opponents, we are told that "the proceedings formed a remarkable contrast with those held in the same place on the preceding Thursday, the conduct of the audience being as quiet and orderly as on the former day it was noisy and disorderly."

Dr. Massingham does not appear to have made any reference to what transpired in the previous week, but others did so. The Rev. Dr. Cranswick, one of the local clergy, who presided, spoke thus plainly and honourably about the matter:—

I regret exceedingly as an individual—I think there are others who regret also—that the meeting last week did not give Mr. Carvell Williams a chance of addressing them. You know it looks bad. It looks as though

you were afraid of meeting the man's arguments. Now you know that we Englishmen have the right of free speech in this country. We always claim it, and shall have it in spite of anybody and everybody, and therefore I say, if I may be permitted to say so by way of reproof, that you ought to have listened to what Mr. Williams had to say, because it would have been all the more easy for my friend Dr. Massingham to have smashed his arguments to pieces.

Mr. Councillor Bates, however, who moved a vote of thanks, vindicated the rowdies in the following fashion:—

I would almost agree with the chairman in the main as to the non-necessity of putting down opponents by clamour, but the working men of Stalybridge were justified, to a certain extent, in the way in which they met the promoters of the meeting. Of all things in the world I believe the people of Stalybridge are determined not to have their wires pulled by the people of Ashton. It was well known to nine-tenths of the people that the wires were being pulled at Ashton, and they said distinctly that, if the wires were to be pulled at Ashton, fair play could not take place. They were determined, as a chairman had not been nominated, to nominate a chairman. There was a determination to see justice done, and they thought it could not come if it came from Ashton. They had very good ground for their apparent rudeness. Working men do not like to be chiselled or done, or to have the wires pulled by men from Ashton. I am not the apologist for the men who upset the meeting. I think this meeting is a pattern, but I would not be harsh upon people when they know the wheels within wheels, and how these things are cooked.

Dr. Cranawick, however, held to his ground; repeating that he regretted that Mr. Carvell Williams had not had a chance of delivering his lecture. He held that everybody in England had the right of free speech, and the meeting ought to have heard the lecturer.

MIDLAND COUNTIES.—Last night Mr. Carvell Williams was to attend a conference at Nottingham, and this afternoon and evening a conference and public meeting at Derby. It is, we understand, also intended to hold a conference at Birmingham this month.

WAKEFIELD.—The annual meeting of the Wakefield branch of the Liberation Society was held in the Music Saloon, Wakefield, last Tuesday. In the absence of Alderman Lee, Mr. John Andrew took the chair, and in the course of his speech expressed the hope that Wakefield would support Mr. Miall's motion. The Rev. J. S. Eastmead then delivered an extremely comprehensive lecture on "Eighteen Centuries of Christianity and their Teaching." Alderman Lee, who had meantime arrived, moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which was seconded by Mr. Calverley. The officers for the next year were then appointed.

LEICESTER.—The second of the Leicester conferences on the Establishment question was held on Friday evening last in the Temperance Hall. The room was crowded, and the Rev. Alex. Mackennal, B.A., gave a lecture on the subject, "Are Establishments of religion beneficial to religion itself?" The paper was well received, and there was subsequently a good discussion; but the report of the proceedings has reached us too late to be dealt with this week, and we must reserve our report till next week.

JUDGMENT IN THE MACKONCHIE CASE.

At the sitting of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council on Friday, judgment was pronounced in the case of "Martin v. Mackonochie," the Incumbent of St. Alban's, Holborn, which was an application for a condemnation of Mr. Mackonochie, on the ground that he had violated the monitions of the Court—issued on a former occasion—with respect to gestures during the Consecration Service, the elevation of the cup and paten, and other matters connected with the celebration of the Holy Communion. Lord Chelmsford, in delivering judgment, went with much care through the whole of the previous history of the case. Their lordships had, on a former occasion, decided that bowing the knee at the Consecration Prayer was equivalent to kneeling, and they expressed a hope that Mr. Mackonochie would obey the spirit of a monition as well as its letter. Mr. Mackonochie was now before their Lordships on complaint that he elevated the cup and bowed down as before. It was also alleged that the rev. gentleman elevated the wafer-bread. The affidavits alleged that this was done by other clergy, but Mr. Stanton, Mr. Wellington, and Mr. Howes, who had officiated, declared that they had not done so. Mr. Mackonochie had stated that he had not elevated the paten, but the wafer-bread, but this made no difference, as the real offence was the elevation, not of the paten, but of the consecrated bread. That the elevation both of the wafer and the cup took place during the prayer of consecration was clear from Mr. Mackonochie's evidence. With regard to the bowing, their Lordships could not hold that reverential bowing was an act of prostration, and the posture assumed by and continued for some seconds was not a mere act of reverence, but an act of adoration. Under all the circumstances their lordships ordered that Mr. Mackonochie be suspended from his office for three calendar months, and that he pay the costs of this application.

(From a Correspondent.)

On Sunday morning last, a large congregation assembled in the well-known church of St. Alban's, many of whom were attracted by curiosity respecting the recent judgment of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. As is well known, that judgment was a sentence of three months' suspension from clerical duties upon Mr. Mackonochie, for having

wilfully neglected to obey a monition of the court respecting the elevation of the paten and prostration before the sacrament. And those who expected a reference to the matter did not go away without their curiosity being gratified to the full. The service was even more ornate than usual, at least it was extra puzzling to one who is now familiar with most of the performances peculiar to Ritualist churches in general; but St. Alban's is always one step in advance of the most advanced. Mr. Mackonochie occupied his usual place in his usual attire—but without taking part in the service as clergyman. There were five other "priests" who did ample justice to the preliminaries, being arranged in what was doubtless the most appropriate attire in which to intone prayers and chapters—but to secular eyes appeared clad in robes of irregular patchwork, purple predominating. On the back of the most active of these gentlemen was a black cross—extending from the neck to the hem of the robe, and from shoulder to shoulder, probably symbolical of the fact that we each have our cross to bear, or that St. Alban's in particular was extra large and black. When the time for the sermon came, Mr. Stanton, one of the curates, entered the pulpit. After crossing himself, and repeating "In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,"—(which is always done with the greatest nonchalance) he read a few notices, one of which was rather curious—"I wish to announce, that in consequence of great scandal having arisen from the fact of sundry unfit persons having partaken here of the Blessed Sacrament, from improper motives—it is ordered that each person who wishes to join with us in future shall at least the day before so doing, give his name and address to the churchwardens, who will make inquiries respecting his fitness, and report as to the same." This was uttered with the utmost vigour, and an undisguised air of—"You won't get over us again—if we know it." So in future, if the prosecutors in the late suit wish to see whether the knee is bent, or the paten elevated—they will have to resort to some more ingenious scheme than hitherto has been necessary.

Mr. Stanton then proceeded to say that, "Your own dear priest, people of St. Alban's, intended preaching to you this morning for the last time for three months—but the criminal has not been allowed." (This in the bitterest tone possible.) "Just before this service commenced, the judgment and sentence upon Mr. Mackonochie arrived, and he has been prohibited from saying a word in reply to the charges for which he is now condemned." He knew there were many strangers present, but he did not care for them in the least, nor for what they could do, but he would say that the Reverend Alexander Heriot Mackonochie did not disobey the previous monition, that he did not elevate the paten, nor bend the knee before the sacrament in adoration; this the dear St. Alban's people knew, this he (the preacher) would swear—as true as that there was a God in heaven. Mr. Stanton delivered these sentences, and indeed the whole diatribe, in the most earnest—bitterly earnest and passionate manner. After reading the judgment, which he said he would take as his text, and giving the above denials, he proceeded to say that it was the most cruel blow they could suffer. They could only imagine that others, and also their judges, were conspiring to crush them out, and to do them evil. He knew the "dear St. Alban's people" wondered, being reasonable men and women, how it was that highly educated men, like those who pronounced this sentence, could do such a thing. True, he could not deny they were gentlemen, he could not say they were not acute in the law, but he knew that some of them had their little sympathies and leanings, and that they were glad to give way to those feelings for the sake of crushing Mr. Mackonochie. After first denying that Mr. Mackonochie ever broke the law, and then reviling the court who said he did, he next spoke of the severity of the sentence, which was very heavy "for a mere error of judgment" on Mr. Mackonochie's part; thus admitting the fact which he had just most solemnly denied. Then, shifting his ground, he reminded his "broken-hearted St. Alban's people" that it was the greatest honour that could possibly be bestowed upon the priest of St. Alban's. For in this same year bishops of the Church of England had celebrated the Holy Eucharist in the company of a man who denied the Divinity of that Christ—whom Mr. Mackonochie worshipping at the altar had now to suffer for—and no notice had been taken of the fact by the law. He here for the second time admitted what he before denied. After speaking of the honour which had thus been thrust upon them—and telling what history would say in future about the St. Alban's clergy, viz., that these were the noble men who were foremost in the fight, who bared their breasts to the bullet, and much of that sort, *ad nauseam*—he took another view of the affair. They must not forget that the clergy were a sacrificing priesthood, and that being so, why should they not at times be also the sacrifice—Christ was a sacrifice—then what an honour to be like Him. Mr. Stanton omitted to mention the trifling fact as to the Church law having been broken, and its consequence. Neither did he insist upon the advisability of striving for the distinguished honour of becoming sacrifices for the good of religion and the world. Then he said, they (the judges) had after all done nothing, they had—instead of crushing Mr. Mackonochie—enabled him to work more effectually than before. "For the silent eloquence of Mr. Mackonochie as you see him sitting in his stall Sunday after Sunday will tell upon your hearts and effect more results than if he were to speak to you from this pulpit." A proposition to which one willingly assents, even if applied to many more clergymen than the one specified, though not

very complimentary. In concluding, Mr. Stanton urged all the "dear St. Alban's people" to increased efforts in their cause, to work hard during the three months and triumph in the end, and not to forget—he spoke to himself as well as others—charity. "Let us be kind and loving to those who persecute us. Let us never let our feelings, strong though they must be, obtain the mastery, and for everything let us be thankful." Thus ended this peculiar sermon. Mr. Stanton delivered his soul of his passion, contempt, and pity for their judges and opponents. His manner was quite in keeping with his matter, and was an exhibition of bitterness seldom seen in the pulpit. It irresistibly reminded one of the criminal who has been convicted on clear evidence and has not a word to say for himself, but who feels completely "sold." The show of forgiveness and meekness at the close contrasted strangely with the announcement before the sermon, and the style and words of the preacher himself. When speaking of the judges straining a point to convict, he said, "We have been betrayed, and it is us who are honest men and gentlemen."

It was evident that the sentence had stung them to the quick, and that unexpectedly. But it remains to be seen whether they will not sail as near the wind as possible after all, and show that they are hardly scotched—much less killed.

IMPRESSIONS OF AMERICA.

(From the English Independent.)

The Rev. Henry Allon, in company with the Rev. Dr. Mullens and Henry Wright, Esq., returned on Saturday evening from their visit to the United States. On the return voyage they encountered a severe gale, but the vessel in which they sailed weathered the storm, and they happily reached their port in safety. On the evening of the 23rd, a large and influential assembly took place at Union Chapel, Islington, to welcome Mr. Allon and his friends on their return, and the opportunity was taken publicly to exhibit a portrait of the esteemed minister of Union Chapel, which has just been completed and presented to the church assembling there by J. K. Thomson, Esq., to be hung up in the vestry of the chapel. Henry Spicer, Esq., presided on the occasion, and sympathetic addresses were delivered by Messrs. Bamford, Barnard, McCullagh Torrens, M.P., W. H. Willans, W. R. Spicer, Duthoit, Overbury, and Bolton. A hearty vote of thanks was presented to Mr. Thomson for his valuable present, which, as a faithful likeness and an admirable work of art, was highly applauded.

The Rev. Henry Allon, in an interesting address, gave a short sketch of some of the impressions which had been produced upon his mind by his visit to the United States. One pervading feeling was that of thankfulness that the good old English speech and habits of religious life, the Protestant truth, and sentiments of civil and religious liberty were so spread over that portion of the earth's surface that it was often difficult to realise the fact of being in a foreign land. In England it was customary to associate with American character a certain degree of bumpiness; but whatever self-assertion might be considered necessary by the Americans for foreign travel was not found necessary for them at home; and he met with as much of courtesy, of refinement, of modesty, of hearty, cordial, generous kindness in American society as he could have found in any English society anywhere. He received most unexpected kindnesses from entire strangers, who only knew him as an English minister. Another characteristic that surprised him was the social gentleness and great patience of the American people, an amount of geniality and tenderness in social life which he thought surpassed even that of English society. He did not remember ever seeing an American out of temper, although nothing was so unpunctual as their railway system, passengers being often detained in the carriages for two, three, or four hours. His conception of them would henceforth be that they were a courteous, refined, good-tempered, and patient people. There were many most important problems in course of solution in the United States which were of great interest to this country. The "religious difficulty" finds no place in American schools, and yet there is not a school in which the Bible is not read and religious worship conducted morning and evening. The only demur which has been made to the use of the Bible has been in one State by the Roman Catholics. Although the difficulty in this country was aggravated by an element which did not exist there—a State-Church, he was inclined to believe that even here it would be found to be theoretical rather than practical. It was refreshing to him as a Nonconformist to find that there was no difficulty whatever in social life in reference to the Christian denomination to which a man belonged, although some were in the ascendant in some parts of the country and others in different parts,—as, for instance, in New York, Presbyterianism; in Brooklyn, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, Congregationalism; in Washington and some of the Southern States, the Methodist Episcopal body. Episcopalianism has its strength, but it was not the strength of the country. Very few of the very costly churches are Episcopalian; some of the other churches have cost 500,000 dollars. There is a difference recognised in America between Congregationalism and Independency. Independency, pure and simple, maintains the isolation of individual churches, and refuses to recognise either counsel or co-operation from others. Congregationalism, while it maintains the independency of individual churches, maintains its relations to other churches. There is

a great deal more of co-operation there than there is in the Independency of our own churches, and as he considered greatly to the advantage of the American churches. He intended to have a great deal to say about this in the Congregational Union. He was much struck with the presence and action among the Congregational churches, especially in New England, of what are called Councils of Reference. The plan was this. When a minister was appointed to one of the Congregational churches in America, and his ordination was to take place, the church requested the presence of delegates from the churches round in clearly defined districts. These churches send their pastor, and commonly a lay delegate, who examine the minister upon his soundness in the faith and with regard to his moral character. If the result is satisfactory they proceed at once to the ordination; if unsatisfactory they merely refuse to take part in his ordination; but the force of public opinion was such that a minister would, under such circumstances, find it impossible to maintain his position. He believed that something of this sort would have a good effect in freeing our pulpits from men who exercise the ministry unworthily, or have no talents to exercise it at all. In the case of church quarrels, the churches around, on the request of the parties, would send delegates, who would examine into the case, and give a decision which had no legal effect. If one of the disputing parties refused to concur in asking for a council, the other party might call a council of reference, to whom its *ex parte* statements would be submitted for investigation. It was simply an appeal to public opinion. The council is called into existence for each particular case, and has no permanent constitution. This system obtains throughout New England. Our own Independency sometimes runs well-nigh mad. A system like this, avoiding the legislative evils of Presbyterianism, would have all the advantages of consentaneous public opinion. The ministers of the United States are, as a rule, educated far more extensively, and to a far higher degree than in this country, very few having less than ten years' education—four years in a preparatory academy, three in the collegiate course, and three years specifically devoted to theology. A higher degree of scholarship distinguished their ministers generally. There was a great deal of devotedness among them; earnestness, eloquence, decision, and practical power, characterised their ministrations. There might be some fires which were false fires, but everything gave signs of life. The men who enter the ministry are, for the most part, sons of the richest men, and men of social station. The richest merchants feel it a high honour to be the father of one who, as minister or missionary, is spending his life in the advancement of the cause of Christ. The rev. gentleman was listened to throughout with the deepest attention.

The Rev. Dr. Mullens and Mr. Wright followed with some appropriate and interesting remarks of a kindred character.

THE LEDBURY SCANDAL.—On Friday the Lord Chancellor gave the judgment of the Judicial Committee in the appeal of Jackson v. Martin, commonly known as the Ledbury scandal case. His lordship at great length reviewed the evidence, declared that the charges of immorality against Mr. Jackson had entirely failed, and therefore reversed the decision of the Arches Court with costs.

ARCHDEACON HALE died on Friday morning at the Charterhouse, in his seventy-sixth year. The Archdeacon had been in failing health for some time past. He was of Oriel College, Oxford, where he took his B.A. degree in 1817, when he was second class both in classics and mathematics. Having served many offices in the Church he was in 1840 appointed Archdeacon of London, and in 1842 Master of the Charterhouse. In 1847 he was presented to the vicarage of St. Giles's, Cripplegate.

THE GREEK CATHOLICS.—Some time ago the Greek Patriarch of Constantinople proposed to convene an Ecumenical Council of the various Greek Catholic Churches, to pronounce on the claim of the Bulgarians to form a national Church of their own. The Russian Government, objecting to all ecclesiastical debates, the Russian Church declared against the plan. The Patriarch has just renewed his proposal at St. Petersburg, informing the Russian Church that all the other Greek Churches had already signified their assent. In the event of Eastern commotion, Russia is likely to approve the project and attend the Council, which would be, in fact, a Parliament of the Oriental Christians.

Religious and Denominational News.

The Rev. F. Robinson, of Oakengates, Salop, has accepted the unanimous invitation to the pastorate of the church at Burton Joyce, with the mission stations of Carlton and Lambley, Notts.

OPEN-AIR MISSION.—The monthly conference of this society was held on Monday evening in the Hall, Red Lion-square. Mr. Alfred Gliddon presided, and Mr. Joseph Weatherley opened the subject for conversation, viz., "Notes of Summer Trips and Summer Work." Among the speakers was Mr. T. B. Bishop, who described the sea-side services of the Children's Special Service Mission. A band of preachers afterwards went out to hold short services in the neighbouring streets, under the direction of the secretary.

CLIFTONVILLE, BRIGHTON.—The second anniversary of the new Congregational church at Cliftonville was held on Sunday, November 20. Two ser-

mons were preached by the Rev. R. Robinson, Home Secretary of the London Missionary Society, and collections made amounting to 30l. A large congregational tea-meeting was held on Monday evening, the 21st, when the Rev. R. V. Pryce, LL.B., and Messrs. Humphrey, Horton, Stephens, Stone, and the Rev. S. S. England addressed the assembly. Great joy and gratitude were expressed at the extinction of the debt, and a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to the Rev. S. S. England for his efforts in this and other ways to serve this Christian church.

DEATH OF THE REV. PROFESSOR BARKER.—On Wednesday morning the Rev. Professor Barker died, after a few hours' illness. Mr. Barker had been connected with Spring Hill College from its commencement. For many years he was resident professor, and during a considerable part of that time lectured on classics, Hebrew, and Syriac. For rather more than twelve months he had ceased to reside at the college, but continued to have charge of the Hebrew classes and of the classes in Old and New Testament Exegesis. In former years he was well known as a preacher to the Congregational Nonconformists in all the principal towns in the Midland Counties. Mr. Barker was in his seventy-second year. —*Birmingham Post*.

PRAYER FOR PEACE.—On Thursday morning the first of a series of meetings which have been promoted by the Evangelical Alliance for special and united prayer for the restoration of peace was held at the Freemasons' Hall, which was well filled. General Clarke presided, and the devotional exercises were commenced by the Rev. Dr. Hoby. Communications were then read from the Bishop of London, the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Earl of Chichester, and other gentlemen, who stated that they felt much interest in the movement. Dr. Schmiedt read letters from various parts of the continent, stating that meetings would be also held on the Thursday for prayer, now that all human negotiations had failed. Count A. Bernstorff offered up prayer, his subject being, "That the grace of the Divine Comforter may be given abundantly to those who have been bereaved in the war; that all who suffered loss in their property may have patience and strength to endure the taking or spoiling of their goods." Prayers were also offered by General Lake, General Alexander, and others.

DAVENTRY.—The Independent chapel at Daventry was built about a century and a half ago, but until now it has not had very ample Sunday-school accommodation. A few years ago a lady, who took for many years a deep interest in the Sunday-school here, left 100l., with which a new site was purchased, and upon that site new schoolrooms have just been erected, and were opened on Sunday, Nov. 13, when two sermons were preached by the Rev. W. F. Callaway, of Birmingham; and on the following day a tea-meeting was held in the large new schoolroom, the attendance being so large that after tea, served twice, it was found necessary to hold the meeting for addresses in the chapel, which was well filled. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. T. Adams, minister of the chapel, who presided; Rev. W. F. Callaway, Arnold, Northampton; and several other ministers and gentlemen. The rooms are a model of neatness and convenient arrangement. The architect was Mr. Bidlake, of Wolverhampton. The entire cost was about 650l., all of which, with the exception of about 100l., has already been collected.

THE ENGLISH CHAPEL-BUILDING SOCIETY.—A meeting was held in the Nether Chapel, on Friday evening, of friends of the English Chapel-Building Society, to hear the following gentlemen, who attended as a deputation from the society:—The Rev. J. C. Callaway, M.A., of London; the Rev. John Conder, of Coventry; and C. E. Conder, Esq., of London. The chair was taken by Alfred Abbott, Esq., and there were also present the Revs. J. Parton, R. Stainton, H. G. Rhodes, Messrs. J. W. Sully, G. Tucker, &c., &c. The deputation gave to the meeting much interesting information with respect to the operations of the society, which has hitherto, to a great extent, been unknown in the provinces. During the last seventeen years 75,000l. had been expended in grants and loans, in aid of the building of 360 chapels in connection with the Congregational denomination, the society lending money for a term of years for the building of chapels, and charging no interest for the same. The object of the meeting was to enlist the sympathies of the friends in Sheffield for a new plan which the society has in view for raising a sum of 10,000l., in order to make additional grants to chapels in need of them. —*Sheffield Independent*.

HALIFAX.—On Thursday evening the recognition services of Rev. J. Bartlett, late of Worcester, as pastor of Park Congregational Church, Halifax, were held; Mr. John Crossley, J.P., presided, and there were present most of the Congregational ministers in the district. The chairman opened by a brief address, congratulating the church and congregation on the success which had attended their efforts—first, in securing such a beautiful church, and then a suitable minister. Mr. N. Whitley followed, with a statement from the deacons. The Rev. James Richards, of Stourbridge, spoke of the character and abilities of the new pastor, and the Rev. J. Pridie, the oldest minister amongst the Independents in the town, added his congratulations. The Rev. J. Bartlett gave a sketch of his own career, and the Rev. Dr. Mellor an address of welcome to the new pastor. Addresses were afterwards delivered by the Rev. Bryan Dale, of Sion Chapel; the Rev. J. C. Gray, of Harrison-road; the Rev. D. Jones, of Booth; and the Rev. T. Michael, representing the Baptists, all of whom gave a hearty welcome to the new pastor. During the evening it was stated that when the

chapel was opened the debt upon it was about 2,800l., of which about 2,400l. had already been raised. It was anticipated that the whole would be paid off by Christmas.

FALCON-SQUARE CHAPEL.—On Wednesday evening last, the recent accession of the Rev. Geo. Critchley, B.A., to the pastorate of the above place of worship was made the occasion of a most interesting meeting of the church and congregation, and of a cordial welcome to Mrs. Critchley. The meeting was held at the Jewin-street schoolrooms, which presented an unusually lively appearance. The walls were hung with paintings, drawings, engravings, and diagrams, lent by Messrs. Blest, Garnham, and other friends. There were several large and well-executed rubbings of antique monumental brasses, and a choice collection of photographs lent by Messrs. McLeod and Spiller; also a capital bust of the Rev. Thomas Binney, lent by Dr. Hogg, and a collection of fossils, coal tar colours, ancient pottery, antique tiles, &c., lent by Mr. Thorp, jun. Several members of the Royal Microscopical Society and the Quekett Microscopical Club exhibited microscopes showing, amongst other interesting objects, living flowers, the circulation in water plants and in the foot of a living frog. A spectroscopic was exhibited and explained by Mr. Salter. Through the kindness of Mr. Blomfield, there was shown a collection of idols, &c., sent to this country by agents of the London Missionary Society. Messrs. Blomfield and Groser exhibited some British and foreign plants, ferns, seaweeds, &c. Mr. Wood exhibited some vacuum or aurora tubes, magneto-electric machines, stereoscopes, &c. Mr. Blomfield having introduced the business of the evening, the Rev. Geo. Critchley briefly explained the present condition, plans and purposes of the church, its societies and agencies. The rev. gentleman pleaded for the principle of rejuvenescence in church agencies and modes of work as the means by which the vitality of old institutions could be preserved, and their blessings carried on from generation to generation in conformity with new demands and new opportunities. A selection of sacred music, under the direction of Mr. Crome, varied the proceedings, and refreshments were served under the management of ladies of the congregation.

BIRMINGHAM.—**WELSH INDEPENDENT WHEELER-STREET CHAPEL.**—Special services have been held in the above place in connection with the settling of the Rev. J. Lewis, late of Corwen, Merionethshire, as the stated pastor of the church. On Lord's Day, November 20, the Rev. Professor Peter, of Bala, preached morning and evening, and the Rev. J. Lewis, of Snow-hill, Birmingham, and the Rev. L. Ellis, Rhuddlan, preached in the afternoon. On Monday, Nov. 21st, at five o'clock, the members of church and congregation and several ministers and deacons from other churches in town, sat down to tea. At seven the recognition meeting took place. The chair was taken by the Rev. Professor Peter. The Rev. J. Hotchkiss, Wheeler-street, commenced by reading the Scriptures and engaging in prayer. The Chairman then made a few observations on the Christian ministry, and the past career of Mr. Lewis as a student and pastor. The Rev. G. B. Johnson, of Edgbaston, addressed the meeting on the relation and duty of the church to the ministry. The Rev. J. Shillito, of Lozell's Chapel, then made some appropriate observations on the importance of prayer, and then offered prayer on behalf of the pastor. The Rev. L. Ellis, Rhuddlan, dwelt upon the duty of one nation to provide means of grace for members of other nations who may happen to reside among them; when the Rev. W. F. Callaway, of High-bury Chapel, expatiated upon the excellences of the English nation and the readiness of English churches and pastors to succour the Welsh churches established among them. He then engaged in prayer on behalf of the church. Dr. Williams expressed his great regard for his fellow-countrymen in Birmingham. The Rev. J. Lewis, of Snow-hill, addressed the Welsh churches in town on the importance of being united and friendly towards one another. The Rev. J. Lewis, the pastor, in proposing a vote of thanks, said that it was the intention of the church and congregation to build a new chapel next year on a site which has been already secured. The meeting closed in the usual manner.

LAY HELPERS.—A conference of the City clergy and laity was held at Sion College, London Wall, on Friday evening, Mr. R. Foster in the chair, to consider the formation of a City Branch of the Diocesan Lay Helpers Association, which owes its origin to a recommendation of the Committee of the Bishop of London's Fund. It was stated that there are about three-quarters of a million of persons in the diocese of London, nominally attached to the Church, who rarely, if ever, enter any place of worship, besides about half a million more or less regular attendants at Church of England services. The Bishop of London, desirous of systematising the various kinds of gratuitous help given to evangelise the masses and instruct the young, desires to give episcopal recognition to all Churchmen now working for the Church; to induce a great number of men to devote a large portion of leisure time weekly to personal service of this kind; and to encourage the association of such helpers under the local clergy for instruction in work, and for mutual encouragement. The Diocesan Lay Helpers Association, which embraces these objects, desires to establish centres of effort in every large mercantile house with resident young men, and in every parish, under the guidance of the parochial clergy, so that under the aegis of the Church, laymen may readily find early opportunities for improvement and work which are now found outside its fold, or are provided by various independent societies. The association was originated by Archbishop Tait in 1865; it has been warmly espoused and extended by

the present Bishop of London, and has been productive of much good in several populous parishes and wide districts, where the clergy have cordially adopted the system. Parochial organisation, diocesan recognition, and personal association by frequent meetings of its members for devotion, study, and instruction in work, are the leading characteristics. These have resulted in an increase of workers, in a greater demand for demand for lay help, and in the more efficient performance of weekly work. A thousand associates have been enrolled, and the clergy, have applied for 565 more lay helpers. It was resolved to nominate a City Committee to promote the requisite organisation.

SUSSEX HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY AND COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The united prayer-meeting which usually inaugurates the annual meetings of this society was held this year, on Wednesday evening, the 23rd inst., at Queen-square Chapel, Brighton, under the presidency of the Rev. E. Paxton Hood. On Thursday, at 11 a.m., the General Committee met for business in the vestry of London-road Chapel. Grants to home mission churches and evangelistic districts were made for the current year amounting to upwards of 700l. The following resolution was passed—

That this meeting hereby resolves that the attempt shall be made to constitute the minister of every associated Church in this county a life member of the Pastors Retiring Fund—and that the matter be referred to the Sub-Committee.

Other important subjects were dealt with in a practical manner by the committee, and at 6.30 a public meeting was held at the Royal Pavilion, presided over by Daniel Pratt, Esq., and addresses were delivered by the Revs. B. B. Williams (Chichester), Jenkin Jones (Uckfield), J. H. Wilson (Secretary to the Home Missionary Society), G. O. Frost (Horsham), R. Hamilton (Brighton), and H. Hounsom, Esq., (Treasurer). The report stated that during the past year eleven evangelists had been more or less employed; about 100 towns, villages, and hamlets, comprising a population of 62,000, had been under visitation; 22,903 visits had been paid to families, and 2,503 to the sick; 1,182 meetings had been held, with an average weekly attendance of 758; 941 addresses had been delivered; 81 open-air services held, at which about 5,000 persons were present; the Scriptures had been read 10,397 times during visits; 134 Scriptures had been sold, and 34,542 tracts given away. 119 persons had been visited while on their death-beds, of whom twenty-four were hopefully converted. The society has twenty-three home missions and out-stations; there are six churches at the principal stations, with 127 members—an increase of twenty during the year. The average attendance on the Lord's day at all the stations was 1,036; on week days, 398. There are nine Sunday-schools, with 102 gratuitous teachers, the weekly average of the children being 603. There were also twenty chapels and twenty-seven rooms used regularly for religious services—twelve chapels and eleven rooms by home-missionary ministers, and eight chapels and sixteen rooms by lay evangelists. Mr. H. Hounsom, the Treasurer, then read the statement of accounts, from which it appeared that the receipts amounted to 1,181l. 2s. 11d.; expenditure, 117l. 18s. 6d.; leaving a balance in hand on the 29th Sept., 1870, 3l. 4s. 5d.

NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AT RYDE.—The memorial-stone of the new structure which is to supersede the George-street Congregational Church at Ryde, destroyed by fire on the 29th of April last, was laid on Thursday week. The new church will be an erection of the Gothic order, with an imposing tower at the north-west corner. It will have galleries round three sides, and a platform, in lieu of a pulpit, on the fourth. The committee do not intend erecting the tower and spire at present; the contract has been taken for building the rest of the edifice, leaving that for future consideration. The committee have already in hand and promised 1,000l., and 1,000l. received from the General Fire and Life Insurance Company. There remain, in round numbers, another 1,500l. to raise. The plans, &c., were supplied gratuitously by the architect, Mr. R. J. Jones. The contract was taken by Mr. Smith, of Portsea, for 3,517l. This includes the tower and spire, the estimated expense of which is about 500l. On Thursday afternoon the new Mayor of Ryde (Ald. Thurlow) and corporation met at the Town-hall, and, having been marshalled into a procession, walked to the site of the building. After devotional services, the Rev. G. Allan Coltart read a list of the newspapers, coins, &c., contained in the bottle placed under the stone, and presented to Mr. John Kemp-Welch, of Sopley Park, Hants, a silver trowel. Mr. Welch then laid the stone, and delivered a brief address. The Mayor then expressed his pleasure and that of his colleagues in being present, in order to show their sympathy with Mr. Coltart and his congregation in the loss they had sustained and in their present undertaking; and placed on the stone a purse containing the contributions of every member of the Council. His worship's example was very generally followed; and the meeting was adjourned to Christchurch (Baptist) opposite, where an address was delivered by the Rev. H. H. Carlisle, LL.B., of Southampton. In the evening a public meeting was held in the assembly-room at the Town-hall. Mr. Kemp-Welch presided. Mr. Shem Comden read a statement of the subscriptions promised and the money already received in aid of the new building. The promises amounted to 784l. 3s.; and the money already received to 172l. 10s. 6d. The Rev. G. A. Coltart announced that, in addition to the above amount, Mr. Welch had promised a donation of 100l. towards the fund. Mr. Casse read an outline of the history of the church. Addresses were afterwards delivered by the Revs. R. A. Davies (Ventnor),

Joseph Fletcher (Christchurch), W. M'Owan (Andover), and M. Paull (Romsey). The total amount collected, including the chairman's donation, was between 130l. and 140l.

Correspondence.

SECTARIAN SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—“I go to the National School, sir, 'cause I was christened a-Sunday,” said a little boy in the street to me. He had been absent from school a few days, and having volunteered such information to me, I called on his mother in the evening, when she, a poor widow, frankly told me that she wished to have her little boy admitted to the charity school, and they would not put down his name as eligible for a candidate for admission until he had attended the National School; and all children who attend the National must also attend the Church Sunday-school. So the little fellow had to leave the British, and Congregational Sunday, schools, and go by himself to the other schools. I have repeatedly had cases of this kind, but, after all, the poor boys do not always get admitted to the “Free Charity School,” as it is called, which is a purely denominational school, endowed with 3,000l. Consols, and which affords free instruction to twenty boys and ten girls, pays them 1s. or 1s. 6d. per week, and clothes them, or nearly so. Its management is nominally vested in the hands of twelve trustees—eight clergymen and four laymen of the Established Church—but the wife of the rector is the party to whom application for admission is usually made. The Endowed Schools Bill does not seem to affect this school; how will the Education Act deal with it?

Yours,

A SCHOOLMASTER IN ONE OF THE HOME COUNTIES.

Nov. 21st, 1870.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND AND OUR VILLAGES.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—During the “education” battle our most dangerous foes were those who are often called by the Evangelical clergymen the “Religious Dissenters.” These gentlemen found the columns of such papers as the *Spectator* and the *Times* open to their wonderful prophecies about the Liberalism of the clergy and the wickedness of some of the members of their own churches who ventured to doubt the “conversion” of the priests who opposed the abolition of Church-rates almost from their babyhood. I have no doubt that we shall hear again similar things from our candid friends. Now the great argument which will be urged by these “Nonconforming members of the Established Church” will be, “Oh! the villages!” Some few of them who have sucked sweet things from the bitter pen of Mr. Matthew Arnold, or learnt to see with Mr. Maurice in the Athanasian Creed an exact, though almost meaningless, exposition of their faith, will talk wonderful rubbish about the “educated gentleman” in the villages. It is all the same to this section of our religious friends whether the educated gentleman be Mr. Voysey or Mr. Bennett, or a mild imitation of Keble. The greater number of our unpolitical brethren will ask us over and over again, “What will the villages do if the Church be disestablished?” Now, in order to answer that question, I would suggest that a “Nonconformist Commission” be instituted to visit some hundred or two villages, in somewhat the same manner as the “Freeman Commission” did during the agitation about the Irish Church. The funds, I am sure, would be very easily obtained; the results would be most astounding, and would, in a great measure do something towards converting our very pious brethren, who think that every clergyman is a small edition of M'Neill or Simeon. I think I can furnish sufficient information about one county in the east midland district to open the eyes of any but those who don't want to see. I will take one case. There is a village not twenty miles from Cambridge; for twenty years that village was thoroughly worked on what I may call the Evangelical Church of England-charity-school-soup-and blanket system.

There were curates, chaplains, and a vicar—Evangelical; a Lady Bountiful, schools, clothing and such clubs, and, no chapel, and no Dissenters! It was impossible to get a bit of land big enough to build a *peew* upon, to say nothing of a chapel. What was the result of all this? This—that village was for twenty years the most drunken and depraved of any village in the county; scarcely any one would hire a servant from —. The Lady Bountiful died, and the curates, chaplains, and blankets departed to other spheres of usefulness. Where earnest Evangelical parsons had pastured, worldly indifference, with a ducal coronet, came into possession, and, what was worse, a Dissenting chapel was built, a Sunday-school opened, and educated laymen sent to preach to a larger congregation than was ever seen in the parish church. A Churchman said to me three months ago, “You Dissenters have done more good in three years than the whole lot of parsons did in twenty.” I know that men who are drunkards, and even worse, are as notorious now for their betterness of life as they once were for their depravity and sottishness. It is a fact

admitted to me by many Churchmen, that as soon as a farmer or his labourer begins to think about his soul he is found out going to chapel! That is, if he dare. Now, in many of the villages the clergyman is either squire number two, or he is a Ritualist!

I believe many of your readers could give similar information to that which I have adduced. I don't say that the Church of England is not doing good in the large towns and cities of the land: this I say, give us a fair field in the villages, and we will soon make up for the loss of Established clergymen, be they Evangelical, Ritualistic, or high-and-dry.

I am, &c.,

NONCONFORMIST.

PHYSICAL-FORCE OPPOSITION TO THE LIBERATION SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—As a believer in the power of Christian willinghood to win human souls to Christ, I felt how dishonouring were the proceedings of the Church of England party at Staleybridge the other evening, as reported in last week's *Nonconformist*, to our common Christianity. We have a number of Church toughs here, who are prepared to do the same sort of dirty work whenever the religious equality party hold a meeting in proud Preston. We had a full illustration of this during the late Parliamentary struggle. The Church schools were used by the parsons and their disciples for the propagation of the most outrageous Toryism. I herewith cut out of last week's *Preston Herald* a letter signed “Emmanuelite,” that is, a member of Emmanuel Church, Preston, one of the places used as stated above at the last election, which forewarns Liberationists what kind of treatment is in store for them when next they bring the question of the day before a public audience here. In your last number of the *Nonconformist* you truly said:—“Sooner than we had expected, and far sooner than we hoped, the Conservative party has taken up the gauge of battle on the question of Church and State.” But the weapons they are mostly prepared to fight with, at least in this town and district, are not truth and righteousness, but those mainly belonging to a coarse and muscular class. I also enclose another letter, cut out of the same paper, by its correspondent at Blackburn, exemplifying the same spirit. To be forewarned is to be forearmed.

Yours truly,

JOHN FURNESS.

Preston, November 23, 1870.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO CARVELL WILLIAMS.

To the Editor of the Herald.

SIR,—The treatment this apostle received at Staleybridge was most atrocious. If he did want to preach destruction and practical Atheism, surely he was entitled to deliver his sentiment freely. If Satan came on earth to express his views on matters in general, no one in any sort of fair play could object to his unbridled liberty of speech. Just the same with Carvell Williams; it is a similar case in all respects. Then don't let Mr. Carvell Williams be downcast at the want of politeness in the Staleybridgians. Let him explore further north. Bolton, Blackburn, and Preston are offered for his consideration. Let him favour us. His Destructionist ideas might meet with an encouraging response. At all events, let him make the essay, and

If we don't receive Carvell,
I'll bet it's a marvell.

Yours, &c.,

EMMANUELITE.

HINTS TO WORKING MEN'S CONSERVATIVE CLUBS.

To the Editor of the Herald.

SIR,—The stern political crisis that is coming is one that demands the display of the highest intelligence on the part of working men. The Church is to be assailed, but not overthrown—no fear of that. Already the Government whips are calling the hounds off the scent, as they perceive very plainly that they will have to cross the metals of the political railway, and in doing so the train of public opinion will come up and out the dog to pieces. Go it, ye cripples! “Heaven instructs those whom it intends to destroy.” This consummation, so devoutly to be wished, does not absolve working men politicians from speaking out freely, and being able to vindicate those great truths which were so ably championed by Richard Oastler, in the advocacy of which he was powerfully assailed but never defeated. Could not debating and essay classes be formed in connection with every Working Men's Conservative Club, and would it not be of infinitely more service than chess boards and billiard tables—good things enough in their way, but which are immeasurably inferior to the great objects I have indicated—now that the working classes possess the election franchise.

Yours truly,

TRUE BRITON.

Blackburn, November 21, 1870.

DIAMOND DISCOVERIES AT THE CAPE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—In your issue of the 23rd you allude to the accounts from the Cape respecting the diamond fields. Having been the only one, so far as I know, who persistently predicted the existence of precious stones at the Cape, I am inclined to express an equally decided opinion that the intelligence brought by the last mail of the discovery of gold in rich deposits on the west slopes of the Drakensberg (the range of mountains which separates Natal from what may be roughly described as the diamondiferous country) will prove of even greater importance than the diamond discoveries.

The opinion was long ago entertained that the Ophir of Scripture was on the East Coast of Africa, not very

remote from the country above mentioned, and it has been known for some time that there are extensive ruins somewhat similar to those found in Central America in the same locality, which, however, are very jealously guarded by the natives, who drive away all interlopers. It is not unlikely that this recent discovery of gold may lead to the examination of these ruins by parties going in sufficiently large numbers to defy the natives, and the result may be the discovery of Ophir.

My object, however, in writing is not to enter into geographical details, but to offer some suggestions to any of your readers who may be tempted to try their fortune at the diamond fields, and I expect there will be some such, as most of your readers, I suppose, are Dissenters, who, so far as my experience goes, are usually more enterprising than others. The reason why I cannot tell, but it may be that the spirit of enterprise has made some of them Dissenters.

No one should go to the diamond fields who is unwilling to "labour and wait" for six months on the chance of success. I name this period because as a matter of fact some of the most successful have toiled almost as long as that without finding anything of importance, but their perseverance has at length been richly rewarded, and some of them are now in England, having brought their treasures with them.

No one should go who has not at least 150*l.* to risk on the venture, that amount being requisite to pay passage out and home, and expense of living at the diggings for about six months; nor should any go out who cannot stand hot weather, or who cannot "rough" it.

There are five routes to the diggings, all of which have their advantages and disadvantages; and I should recommend any one going out not to determine on the route he will take until his arrival in Capetown, which is the first port at which the steamers from England touch, and where full information can be obtained as to the best route. Should any of your readers desire farther information they may obtain it, I believe, on application to Mr. G. Greig, of 3, George-yard, Lombard-street, a Cape merchant, and who has a pamphlet printed at the Cape on the subject.

It will not surprise me if some who go out in search of diamonds should settle at the Cape, where there is a large field for the cultivation of cotton, which in the long run, I believe, will be found to be better than gold or diamonds.

Yours &c.,

G. A. MERRINGTON.

Eltville, Rheingau, Nov. 26.

THE EVANGELICAL MAGAZINE WIDOWS' FUND.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I am not conscious of any mistake, and certainly Dr. Ferguson has rectified none. The question is not, is Sir Francis Crossley now aware that the *Evangelical Magazine* has a fund of nearly 20,000*l.*, but did he know it when he proposed, with his magnificent gift, to originate one for widows? It is certain he did not, and when apprised of the fact, it agreeably surprised him. No settled objection, it is therefore presumed, can exist on the part of Sir Francis to increase a fund already embodying his benevolent purpose.

Yours,

AMICUS.

Nov. 28th.

TENNYSON'S BOOK OF SONGS.—The preface to Mr. Tennyson's new book of songs, "The Window; or, the Loves of the Wrens," is as follows:—"Four years ago Mr. Sullivan requested me to write a little *Leiderkreis*, German fashion, for him to exercise his art upon. He had been very successful in setting such old song, as 'Orpheus with his lute made trees,' and I drest up for him a puppet chiefly in the old style—a mere *motif* for an air—indeed, the veriest nothing unless Mr. Sullivan can make it dance to his instrument. I am sorry that my four-year-old puppet should have to dance at all in the dark shadow of these days; but the music is now completed, and I am bound by my promise.—A. TENNYSON."

CHRISTMAS DAY.—As Christmas Day will this year fall on a Sunday, the following day will be observed as an almost universal holiday. In the present state of the law, however, the banks must be open on the latter day, thus compelling the attendance in the City of a large number of persons whose occupation throughout the year involves much hard work and responsibility, accompanied in many cases by inadequate remuneration. A bill introduced in the House of Commons in 1868 by Sir Colman O'Loughlin and Mr. Stauropeole, to render the day after Christmas Day a bank-holiday, was read a second time, and subsequently referred to a select committee, including Mr. Stephen Cave, Mr. Goschen, Mr. Rothschild, Mr. Alderman Salomons, and Mr. Hubbard. This committee examined some of the best practical authorities, and finally amended the bill to enable bank-holidays to be created on special occasions by Royal proclamation. Nevertheless, the bill was allowed to drop, owing partly to the pressure of other business at the time in the House of Commons, and partly to the supineness generally shown by many of the members in relation to any commercial question. It is to be hoped that the matter will be taken in hand in the forthcoming meeting of Parliament.

THE WAR.

DEFEAT OF THE FRENCH NORTHERN ARMY.

The skirmishes before Amiens, of which we heard so much last week, were on Sunday developed into a serious battle. A body of French troops of the Army of the North issued from their entrenched camp south of Amiens to attack the Germans, and an engagement followed upon a line extending from Dury on the west, by Boves, to Villers Bretonneux, on the east. The Germans are believed to have mustered 30,000 men. The fighting, according to the Tours account, was at first favourable to the French; but it is admitted that they were driven out of Boves and Villers-Bretonneux. From the Germans we have two accounts, one of them being from General Manteuffel himself. He states that the French were met on their advance, and forced back on the whole line between the Celle and the Somme, rivers which meet at Amiens, and form a right angle in their course through the portion of the country affected by this battle. The French were driven into their entrenched camp, and the battle was suspended by the coming on of night. General Manteuffel states that the French lost several thousand, including 700 unwounded prisoners. A regiment of Gardes Mobiles lost its new colours. The French ascribe superiority to the German artillery, although it has been stated that the new French armies are provided with powerful artillery of the very latest pattern. After the battle a French council of war was held, and it was resolved not to make any further stand before Amiens, but to commence a retreat. This was effected, and on Monday the Prussians entered and occupied the capital city of Picardy. The capture of this important town on the first attempt to take possession of it will produce a considerable impression throughout the north of France. It completely separates the North of France from the Centre and West. It will, no doubt, immediately be followed up by the close pursuit of the enemy towards Rouen, and it is not absolutely impossible that while a portion of Manteuffel's army moved upon Amiens from the south-eastward, another portion was directed due westward by Beauvais, with the view, not perhaps so much of threatening Rouen, as of anticipating the event which has just occurred—the retreat of the defenders of Amiens upon that city. However that may be, the result of Sunday's events will clearly be to remove the interest of the war entirely from the north bank of the Seine. It is not likely that the French will make any strong stand at Rouen; and in a few days we may expect to hear that Manteuffel has actually brought his left wing into contact with the right of the Germans between Versailles and the Loire, driving the Army of the North towards the Breton Peninsula.

It will be remembered that General Bourbaki was removed by M. Gambetta from the command of the Northern Army. He was succeeded by General Faidherbe, who was recently promoted to the rank of general of division in Algeria.

THE FRENCH ARMY OF THE LOIRE.

The main body of the French Army of the Loire is ascertained to occupy an entrenched position in and near a forest between Artenay and Orleans. That army is said to number nearly 200,000 men, a large portion of which are regulars from Algeria and old soldiers. General Aurelles de Paladine has a large artillery force, 150 light guns, ten batteries of mitrailleuses, each of ten pieces, making altogether 800 of those destructive engines of war, and in various parts nearly 15,000 well-mounted cavalry.

A telegram from Tours of Sunday's date says:—"On Friday, Saturday, and to-day there has been fighting along the entire line, and the French have carried everything before them. The Germans tried to turn the French right at Gien, in the Department of Loiret; and to perform the same operation on the left at Château-du-Loire, in the Department of Sarthe, about twenty-five miles north of Tours. At both points they were repulsed with great loss. Hard fighting also took place to-day in the centre about Vendôme, resulting in the French driving back the enemy, and taking 500 prisoners. No doubt is entertained here that the decisive conflict is at hand, and the greatest excitement continues to prevail."

Orleans is powerfully defended on its northern side by earthworks. There are also lines of entrenchments higher up. General d'Aurelles is replaced in the command of the Army of the Loire by General de Pallières, and is himself appointed commander-in-chief. General Bourbaki has been entrusted with the charge of the 18th Corps d'Armée stationed at Nevers—that is towards the French rear—but, it is said he declines to act. It is said that he will now only fight as commander of a free corps, a service beneath his rank and capacity, but in which the dash of his earlier years—if the ex-Commander of the Imperial Guard has preserved it—will have abundant scope.

According to a telegram from the German headquarters at Versailles, the French hold Orleans in force, and their expected retreat across the Loire has not even commenced. The actions reported from the direction of Dreux and Châteauneuf have been more skirmishes with outlying detachments, to cover the advance of the German right towards Le Mans. The Army of the Loire, as a body, seems never to have been north of Artenay.

Writing on the 23rd, the special correspondent of the *Daily News* at the head-quarters of the Crown Prince thus endeavours to foreshadow the issue of the campaign in the neighbourhood of Orleans:—

It is supposed that Prince Frederick Charles, the

Grand Duke of Mecklenburg, and General Von der Tann, are moving against the Army of the Loire in such a way that it must either beat a hasty retreat, or be obliged to fight in a dangerous position—in a position where defeat would mean utter destruction. If Aurelles de Paladine should take example by Metz and Sedan he will avoid the snare. But it is very likely that even in avoiding it he will lose a good many of his rearguard. The city of Orleans will be shut in on three sides so soon as Prince Frederick Charles has crossed the Loire at Châteauneuf and occupied St. Aubin on the Vierzon line. There will then only be the side of Ouzier and Blois by which the French can escape, and even this line may be threatened by a forced march of the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg to the southward. The notion at head-quarters, however, is that Aurelles de Paladine has his men so well in hand since his recent success, that he will venture to retreat under the eyes of the Prussians, and the recapture of Orleans with a brigade or two of Frenchmen will be the only immediate result of this masterly concentration of troops on the Loire. It will be the only immediate result, but it will leave Paris once more without hope of relief.

The correspondent of the same journal at Tours describes what he regards as the French plan—

I now understand something more of their plans, and ultimately they may prevail against an enemy in a hostile country. They are making three lines of entrenched defences, which will be armed with heavy artillery, and easy of defence. The third line is Orleans, which to the north has been powerfully defended by earthworks. The second line, which is, I am told, about Artenay, has been actively prepared by 10,000 workmen, besides the soldiers who worked at it. The first line will be, of course, further up. De Kératry is doing the same thing, and so is Bourbaki. So that, if the French are, which is likely, repulsed in their first simultaneous attack upon the investing lines round Paris, they will fall back upon the first line of defences, and then prepare to begin again. This is the idea. General d'Aurelles having two or three times offered battle to the enemy in front of him, and the enemy not having accepted, the Army of the Loire is going to pass by them, leaving about 50,000 behind to threaten any army which might wish to get behind it. The report is spread that the Army of the Loire is 100,000 strong; but I think I may venture to tell you that it is nearer 200,000 than 100,000 strong. The artillery is very numerous. The Government have at last thought fit to attach an English officer to the headquarters of the army; they suggested it themselves. Colonel Reilly is here and will follow the army.

The *Gazette de France* estimates the Prussian armies near Tours and Montargis at 180,000 or 170,000 men, and considers that the intention of the enemy is to march on Tours with the object of cutting off the Army of the Loire from its base of operations. Other accounts estimate the strength of the Prussians in this region at 100,000 men.

The *Standard* correspondent, who writes from near Autun, says that enormous quantities of American rifles have been distributed among the southern levies, and that the latter have been lately pushed in masses on Orleans to support d'Aurelles, towards the vicinity of whose camps there are also being sent numerous convoys of empty carts, supposed to be intended for collecting supplies for Paris.

M. Gambetta has promulgated a decree ordering the immediate formation of camps for instructing and concentrating Mobilised National Guards called out by the decree of the 2nd of November. Mobile Guards, Free Corps, and contingents of the regular army will also be admitted into these camps which are to be formed at St. Omer, Cherbourg, Conlie, Nevers, La Rochelle, Bordeaux, Clermont-Ferrand, Toulouse, Pas des Lanciers, Bouches du Rhône, and Lyons. The camps at St. Omer, Cherbourg, La Rochelle, and Pas des Lanciers will be put in a fit state to receive 250,000 men, and will be strategic camps. Each of the others will be capable of containing 60,000 men, and will be only camps of instruction.

A telegram from Tours informs us that M. de Kératry has been indirectly cashiered by a decree appointing General Jaures commander-in-chief of all the forces in the West.

DEFEAT OF GARIBALDI.

The Garibaldians have gained a success and sustained a defeat—the latter the most considerable. About the middle of last week Ricciotti Garibaldi surprised Chatillon at six o'clock in the morning while almost all the German soldiers were in bed. A large number of them were made prisoners in the houses, the doors of which were forced open; others rushed out half dressed into the street, and were immediately shot down. Many of the officers were made prisoners in the hotel where they were sleeping, but several defended themselves desperately and were killed. After half an hour's fighting the Germans rallied, and concentrated in the Town Hall. Ricciotti Garibaldi decided, however, not to attack them, as they held a tolerably strong position, but at once withdrew, hearing that reinforcements for the enemy were coming up. He took with him 167 prisoners, including eleven officers, four carriages, ammunition, &c. The Germans are believed to have been 800 strong. Their losses in killed and wounded are estimated at more than 100. Those of the Garibaldians were three killed and twelve wounded. The attack was made with 410 men.

But the Garibaldians were defeated on Saturday, according to the following despatch from Dijon of Sunday's date:—"By yesterday's reconnaissance, Garibaldi was ascertained to have set out from Pasques at dawn. Our foreposts of the Third Infantry Division being vigorously attacked, were succoured by the battalion Unger, which repulsed the charge at 50 paces distant. The enemy fled in disorder, throwing away arms and baggage. To-day, General Werder attacked with three brigades, and, turning the enemy by way of Plombières, came up with his rear at l'asques. The

enemy lost between 300 and 400 killed and wounded; our loss on both days was about 50. Menotti Garibaldi is reported to have commanded on the 26th."

The Sub-Prefect of Autun has written a letter to the *Journal de Macon*, stating that the request for lodging Garibaldi's troops in the seminaries and colleges of Autun was made to the ecclesiastical authorities by the Sub-Prefect and the municipality, and not by Garibaldi. The Mobile Guard, numbering 20,000 men, had occupied all other accommodation. General Canzio has written a letter from Autun, dated the 17th inst., to the *Journal de Macon*, stigmatising the reports of the proceedings of the Garibaldians at Autun as base calumnies, invented by the priests and Napoleonists. The *Journal de Macon* replies that the priests have been entirely silent, and requires General Canzio to distinctly answer the allegations of its informants.

General de Polignac succeeds General Michel in the command of the Army of the East. The principal cause of his resignation is said to have been the embarrassment caused by the neighbourhood of Garibaldi.

THE FORTRESSES.

The fortress of Thionville surrendered on the 25th, after a bombardment which set the town on fire. Two hundred guns and 4,000 prisoners were surrendered to the Germans.

Montmédé is not besieged, but is completely invested. All the roads have been intercepted by barricades, and all the neighbouring villages are occupied by the Prussians, a great number of whom are concealed in the woods. The Mobiles and Francs-tireurs are incessantly harassing the enemy. The commandant has declared his firm intention to blow up the fortress rather than surrender it to the Prussians.

The Prussians are sending troops, supported by artillery, towards Longwy. The fall of Thionville has caused great consternation, and the female population of Longwy is flying towards the Luxembourg frontier.

According to a letter dated Charleville, the 24th, 10,000 Prussians left Sedan on Tuesday en route for Paris. The enemy destroyed the bridges in his rear.

The fortified town of La Fère, near the confluence of the Oise and the Serre, fourteen miles north-west of Laon, and on the road from that town to Amiens, has capitulated after two days' bombardment, yielding the Germans 2,000 prisoners and seventy guns.

On Wednesday General Treskow dislodged the enemy from a position in front of Belfort, and subsequently repulsed a sortie of the garrison.

The *Berlin National Zeitung* says:—"After the fall of Thionville only the small fortresses of Bitsch and Pfalzburg are still held by the French in the districts to be annexed."

THE INVESTMENT OF PARIS.

It is reported here that General Trochu has declared that he will make no sortie from Paris until he knows that the besieging forces are being attacked by the Army of the Loire. According to one report the bombardment of Paris is to commence early in December, though, according to other accounts, not a single siege gun was in position as recently as the 17th inst. It is rumoured that the reason of change of plan to simple blockade is owing to Count Moltke having information that the supply of food in the city is less than was supposed. Trochu is thought certain to try a great sortie before he surrenders.

Prince Wittgenstein, the Russian military agent at Paris, has been forbidden by General Trochu to leave the city, as his Government had ordered him to do. It is supposed that General Trochu does not wish to run the risk of having the truth about the state of Paris communicated to the enemy.

The German foreposts have been forbidden to give bread and peaspudding to the French foreposts. Large numbers of the Parisians, digging for potatoes in the fields, have been fired upon by the Germans.

On Friday night Forts Issy, Vanvres, and Montrouge opened upon the German position and continued till daybreak. No damage was done.

According to a Berlin telegram the regular troops of the Paris garrison come to the German outposts by hundreds, offering to surrender. They say they are starving; but, excepting the sick, they are turned back.

The *Times* correspondent with the Crown Prince of Saxony on the north of Paris writes on the 22nd:—

Time runs in favour of the Prussian side and against the French. The great highways of communication between the armies investing Paris and the sources of their supplies are open. Every day brings with it provisions for the maintenance of the besieging forces; but, whatever may be the state of the commissariat at Paris—and we believe it to be at a very low ebb—one thing is certain: that in the besieged capital the *vivres* are not abundant, and must day by day be diminishing. I am told that if Paris were now to capitulate without putting Prussia to the necessity of a bombardment, comparatively good terms would be granted to the inhabitants. They might, perhaps, be spared the pain of seeing any very large proportion of the German troops quartered in Paris itself, and the provincial Gardes Mobiles might be allowed to disperse and betake themselves to their various localities. I hear that the King of Prussia and Count Bismark would be disposed to avoid everything in the way of unnecessary humiliation, and that is their desire to save the architecture of Paris and the galleries of art from all injury; its art treasures would be left untouched by the invader, and requisitions would not be added to the pressure which a long siege must inevitably entail on the population even after the investment shall have ceased.

THE ANIMALS OF THE JARDIN DES PLANTES.—I see that one journalist, in calculating the amount of meat left in Paris, includes the animals of the Jardin des

Plantes, so that one may have a chance of getting a tiger steak, or clabbing with one's friends for a round of rhinoceros, unless the Government seize upon the beasts for the public use. It is a little odd they should have been allowed to live so long. The Government can scarcely think them more valuable than the Palace of St. Cloud, and now that monkeys and dogs are considered by epicures rather as delicacies, it is difficult to see what food can be found for them which might not be eaten by human beings. There is a young American lady here, the belle of an ambulance (as this seems an odd expression, let me explain that the doctors, on strictly hygienic principles, encourage pretty and well-dressed young ladies to visit their ambulances in order to enliven the wards and administer small doses of flirtation to patients), who is just now in the depths of despair about her dog—a splendid Siberian wolf-hound, valued at 100*l.* in hard cash, and of unappreciable value in the softer coin of sentiment. The authorities have found him out, and declare that a dog which eats two and a-half francs' worth of food a day cannot be allowed to live in a besieged town. The wild beasts must therefore be in considerable danger. I took a friend to breakfast with me yesterday morning at Brabant's. On the bill of fare I found *cochin de lait*. Now, I have many weaknesses, but all are as nothing in comparison with my weakness for sucking-pig. I at once said, "By all means, we shall have sucking-pig." But I called the waiter and asked him if it was a real sucking-pig? He said, "Truly." Then I said, "A little pig?" He replied, "Surely." Again I said, "A young pig?" But this question floored him, and he hesitated. At last he confessed, "It was a guinea-pig, *cochin d'Inde*." Now, I ask you, are you equal to guinea-pig?—*Times Correspondent*.

THE EXPECTED SORTIE.—Trochu is soon going to attempt his grand burst-out, with an army of from 200,000 to 250,000 men, deemed to be a good and valid force to take the field outside, of whom 150,000 are either regulars, good Mobiles, or old soldiers recalled into service, leaving an ample force for the defence of impregnable Paris. That is positive.—*Ibid.*

A Versailles letter in the *Allgemeine Zeitung* states that an intercepted balloon communication explains the recent mysterious cessation of the firing from the Paris forts. Gunpowder is lacking, and a committee of chemists has been directed to make artificial saltpetre, which played a great part in the annals of 1793. What, however, then lasted a week would now be exhausted in an hour.

INSIDE PARIS.

The balloon post has brought a fresh batch of letters from the English correspondents shut up in Paris. The dates range between the 14th and 20th.

The *Daily News* correspondent, describing the means employed to obtain news by employing pigeons, says that for fifteen days not one of those birds had come back, and out of all that had been sent away only twenty-two had returned, at least 150 being missing. Ignorance, therefore, prevailed as to what was being done in the provinces, and this aggravated the indecision already existing. News, however, of the recapture of Orleans had come in on the 16th, and it had put the troops in good heart. With regard to the food supply, the same correspondent calculated that there was sufficient meat—horse-flesh—to last for another hundred days. Disease and death were, however, spreading fast. In the week ending Nov. 5 there were 1,800 deaths; in the following week there were 1,900. The ravages from small-pox alone were very severe.

A communication of the 16th says that the arrival of pigeons, bringing despatches reduced by photography, has relieved thousands of families. A very melancholy incident has occurred. A large number of persons, as usual, went outside the gates to gather vegetables. Being unmolested by the enemy, they advanced beyond Bondy, when the Prussians suddenly fired on them. Two hundred were killed and wounded, some women and children being amongst the number. It is said that M. Bismark will not allow any more persons to cross the lines. The Civil Commission for constructing in the shortest time 360 cannon, divided its orders amongst twelve workshops. Seventy cannon had been already cast. They are said to have a range of five kilometres, and to be as superior to the Prussian artillery as the rifled cannons in 1859 were to those of Austria. On the 20th General Trochu issued the following order:—

Despite orders most clearly expressed through newspapers and placards, to the effect that no person should on any account venture beyond our outposts, some inhabitants of Paris go out of the city on all sides in bodies into the open country. They advance thus within the nearest range of the Prussian lines, being encouraged to do so by the previous conduct of the enemy, who seldom has molested them. The enemy, in defiance of all feeling of humanity, now continuously fires at unarmed men, and even at women and children. Several persons have been thus killed and wounded. The Governor of Paris, profoundly impressed with this state of things, which the outposts are unable to remedy, on account of the extent of our lines, acquaints all the inhabitants with these facts, and he adjures them no longer to infringe orders the disregard of which has such painful consequences.—The Governor of Paris, General TROCHU.

The mortality in Paris was increasing. The greatest sufferers of all are the infants, for want of milk. The deaths among them is beginning to be very great. The weather was cold, and winter appeared to have set in prematurely.

The *Paris Figaro* of the 18th inst. conjures the Government to dispense with all sorties, convene the National Assembly, and conclude peace, relief having become impossible since the retreat of the Loire Army.

A decree had been issued by the Minister of Agriculture announcing that, on and after Nov. 13, the State would buy mules and asses destined for the food of the people; and that the flesh of these animals would be sold in each arrondissement of Paris under regulation, and in quantities in proportion to the number of the population. In the Rue Rochechouart

an enterprising tradesman had opened a shop for the sale of cats, dogs, and rats! the cats and dogs are ticketed at six francs to ten francs, and the rats at two francs. The "Besieged Resident" in the *Daily News* speaks disparagingly of General Trochu. "He trusted," said one of his generals to me, "first to the neutrals, then to the provinces, and now he is afraid to trust to himself." The "Resident" especially complains that Trochu allows the exposure of grossly indecent caricatures of the ex-Empress, and altogether gives the reader a very gloomy impression of the present aspect of the besieged city.

By a balloon which fell in Belgium there are further accounts from Paris to November 25. According to the *Rappel*, the fighting battalions of the Paris National Guard are going to the front. The 72nd, from Passy, marched out on the 24th, was harangued at the foot of the Statue of Strasbourg by M. Henri Martin, and then went to garrison Fort Noisy.

The same journal says that the accustomed visitors to the Jardin des Plantes do not like to witness the diminution which is going on among those beasts whose flesh is capable of serving for food. Especially among horned animals is the diminution remarkable. Two young bears also, the gift of Prince Couza to the institution, have been given over to the butcher. A great many birds, too, are gone. The birds of prey appear to rest tranquil, except the great eagle, who looks pined. A strong earthen barricade has been erected before the cages of the lions, leopards, tigers, and panthers, to prevent their escape in the event of a projectile destroying the bars of their prison.

Since the news from Orleans arrived enthusiasm has succeeded to resignation. The men are impatient to be led to battle, and have presentiment of success. "Even the very horses," says the *Figaro*, "can hardly be restrained from rushing upon the enemy."

According to the *Sicle* of the 24th, the Government has issued a decree, under which all stocks of potatoes are to be taken possession of by the public authority. According to the same journal great complaints are made all over Paris by the largest class of consumers on account of the pretensions of the holders of commodities to make a profit out of the general distress.

The Government of the National Defence in Paris no longer allows foreigners, including diplomats, to leave the city. Subjects of neutral States, who had received permission from the German authorities to pass through the lines, have been forbidden by the French Government to leave.

One Paris journal declares that more than 24,000 cats have been sold and eaten. A student in medicine sent the following note to a friend:—"Come on Saturday to my rooms and eat a broiled cat, seasoned with pistachio nuts, olives, gherkins, and pimento, and washed down with Chablis. After dinner we will drink some Rhenish wine to the indivisibility of France."

The following are extracts from the Paris letters:—

THE FOOD AND HEALTH OF PARIS.—Once more on the subject of provisions. We have come to eat "rats and mice and such like small deer." A cat sells for six francs, and the leg of a dog is a delicacy of the season. But in truth we have not yet come to the end of our beef and mutton; there is a considerable quantity of salt provisions and preserved meats in store, and there are 40,000 horses which have to be eaten. At the commencement of the siege we had 100,000 horses, including those of the army. Of these 30,000 have gone the way of all flesh—they are consumed. Suppose that the army require 30,000 horses. There remain 40,000 for consumption. Each horse may be supposed to yield 250 kilogrammes of food; and, if each inhabitant is allowed fifty grammes a day, it follows that there is meat enough in Paris to last for yet another 100 days. This is official, and may be relied on. But disease and death are spreading fast, and much depends on food, and low spirits, and anxiety. In a recent letter I reminded you that, in the Sedan week, the deaths in Paris amounted to 900. In the week ending November 5, the deaths had mounted up to 1,800. In the week ending yesterday, the deaths reached 1,900. The deaths from small-pox alone are very terrible. In the week ending November 5, they were 380. In this last week, they were 419. There are a great many deaths from gastric complaints. It is reported also that a sentimental, but very real, disease has broken out among many of the provincial battalions of Mobiles—home-sickness, or, as it is technically called, nostalgia. Many people laugh at this disease; they cannot understand it. But it has a powerful influence on certain temperaments. The Scotch Highlanders on foreign stations often suffer from it, and sink into their graves to the tune of "Lochaber no more." These pure Celts—the Bretons—are giving way to the complaint, drooping from mere melancholy. They lack amusement; nearly all amusements are at an end. The theatres are closed by order of the Government, and it is doubtful if people would flock to them so as to make them pay even if they were free to open.—*The Besieged Resident* in the *Daily News*.

THE SAME SUBJECT.—A correspondent of the *Telegraph*, writing from Paris, Nov. 17, says—"The municipal canteens, numbering six or seven in each district, are besieged from morning to night by a crowd of poor destitute creatures, who wait sometimes three and four hours in order to obtain the gratuity of a little soup or bread, to which the tickets they procure from their respective mayors give them a right. In the richer quarters of the city it is really sad to see repeatedly, among the recipients of this charity, many whose general appearance and bearing prove that they belong to a better class of society, and who seem terribly out of place in a crowd whose component parts are the very poor. The increase in the number of beggars is alarming. Juvenile mendicants are more numerous than aged ones, and all of them, if one were to credit their story, have a posse of smaller brothers and sisters at home, a widowed mother, and an empty larder. The audacity of these little vagabonds is surprising, now that the *sergent-de-ville* is a thing of the past. In half an

hour's walk along the Boulevards, the other day, I was accosted by no fewer than fifty beggars of one sort or another; more than two-thirds of whom, I should say, were professionals, and not compelled to ask alms by actual want. At a moment like the present, when there is much real heart-moving distress, I think the Agents de la Paix Publique, a feeble imitation of the vanished *sergent-de-ville*, would do well to suppress all counterfeiting. Meat, that is, beef and mutton, is becoming very, very scarce; so seldom is it my fortunate lot to have to taste it, that whenever I do chance to see a leg or shoulder of mutton ostentatiously displayed in the window of some restaurant, I stop to contemplate it, as one would a *chef d'œuvre* or masterpiece of painting.

THE WOMEN OF PARIS.—They seem to consider the whole question a political one, which in no way regards them—they neither urge the men to resist, nor clamour for peace. *Tros Tyrannique* seems much the same to them; a few hundreds have dressed themselves up as *vivandières*, the others appear to regret the rise in the price of provisions, but trouble their heads about nothing else. If they thought that the cessation of Alsace and Lorraine would reduce the price of butcher's meat, they would be in a sort of apathetic way be in favour of the cessation; but they are so utterly ignorant of everything except matters connected with their toilettes and M. Paul de Kock's novels, that they confine themselves to shrugging their shoulders and hoping for the best. The word *armistice* being beyond the range of their vocabulary, they call it "l'armistie," and imagine that the question is whether or not King William is ready to grant Paris an amnesty. As *Aeneas* and *Dido* took refuge in a cave to avoid a shower, so I for the same reason found myself with a young lady this morning under a *porte cochère*. *Dido* was a lively and intelligent young person, but I discovered in the course of our chance conversation that she was under the impression that the Russians as well as the Prussians were outside Paris, and that both were waging war for the King of Spain. Sedan, I also learnt, was in the neighbourhood of Berlin.—*A Besieged Resident.*

NOTES AND INCIDENTS.

It was reported at Rouen that last Tuesday a Bavarian soldier fired at King William between Louvenciennes and Bougival. The King was not struck; the ball passed within a few inches of his head. The soldier was immediately arrested and shot. The report is very apocryphal.

A recent Paris letter says:—"Tobacco, it is rumoured, is running out, and will probably be rationed like meat. I fancy this would be a greater infliction to many than all our other hardships put together; it would certainly have a most depressing effect on the *esprit Français*, which lives so much on smoke. What would poor Jules do without his cigarette?"

It is estimated that there are 80,000 *Francs-tireurs* at this moment in France.

Dr. Bamberg, formerly Prussian Consul-General in Paris, and residing at Berlin since the outbreak of the war, has been summoned to the Royal Headquarters to make a report on the question of Alsace and Lorraine.

On Saturday, the 19th inst., a statue of Napoleon III., in bronze, which stood in one of the squares in Lyons, was broken up.

A correspondent of the *Nord* says he has seen MacMahon's report on the affair of Sedan. The marshal entirely exculpates the Emperor, by whom, he states, he was left completely unfettered. His own intention had been to retreat with the army to Paris, but he yielded at last to precise orders of the Emperor, which were inspired by MM. Rouher and de Falloux.

The French papers state that General Kanzer, late Commander-in-Chief of the Papal army, remains in Rome. Being a Bavarian by birth he was unwilling to return to his country, where he would be called upon to fight against his late brethren in arms.

The *Staat's Anzeiger* publishes an official memorandum, dated the 16th inst., from the head physician of the 7th Corps on the state of the Metz hospitals, contradicting expressly the rumours prevalent of their bad sanitary condition. Spotted typhus and hospital gangrene do not exist—whatever report may have said to the contrary—among German or French sick. Dysentery is diminishing steadily, and typhus, though still about, is not present in a severe form. Only five per cent. of the admissions during the current month have been for this malady.

Marshal Canrobert is now at Stuttgart, Marshal Le Bon at Aix-la-Chapelle; Marshal Bazaine remains at Wilhelmshöhe.

The *Sédele* announces the death of M. Piétri, the ex-Prefect of Police at Paris. He died in Switzerland.

M. Jules Favre has issued a long circular, dated 21st instant, in which he states that in giving full powers to M. Thiers to treat for an armistice the Government were convinced that the question of the revivification of Paris was admitted.

The sword which the Emperor Napoleon surrendered to King William at Sedan has been given to the Prussian Military College at Berlin, to be preserved side by side with that of the First Napoleon.

The women's petition in labour of peace, started by the Countess de Gasparin, the well-known writer, has received 20,841 signatures, and a copy of it has been forwarded both to Tours and Versailles. "The undersigned," it says, "do not venture to offer advice, but we join hands for the purpose of imploring both peoples to put an end to this ruin and interminable misery."

Mr. T. L. Latimer, connected with the Plymouth press, died suddenly in that town, aged twenty-five. He was to have been married in a few weeks to a native of Alsace, the only child of an officer of the Imperial Guard of France, who was killed in a sortie from Metz. The poor young lady received, the day before her lover's death, intelligence of her father's, together with a lock of his hair, which he had prepared before he went into battle to be given her, in

case he was slain, as a token that his last thoughts were devoted to her.

The *Gaulois*, of November 17, mentions the safe arrival, on the previous day, of a carrier pigeon with despatches. The written communications are all contained in a scrap of paper about 1½ in. in length and nearly 1½ in. in breadth. This morsel of paper was enclosed in a quill, which was fastened to one of the tail feathers of the pigeon, and upon it was impressed, by means of photography, in characters so small that none but the most powerful microscope would reveal the nature of the contents, an immense number of messages. The paper was ruled into four columns, the first of which was occupied by the official description of the document, and the other three columns were devoted to despatches from the Government delegation at Tours and to private messages.

MacMahon has left Brussels for Wiesbaden with his staff.

Thousands of families are homeless and destitute in the department of Seine et Oise.

The balloon post is threatened with a new enemy. The *Cologne Gazette* mentions the passage through the town on Saturday of a balloon cannon, constructed by Krupp, at Essen. It consists of a platform resting on four wheels, movable in all directions, from the centre of which an iron cylinder 5 ft. high rises obliquely. In the upper part of this fixed cylinder a tolerably short gun is inserted, movable in all directions. The arrangement is something like that of large stationary telescopes. The range of the gun is 1,300 or 1,500 feet.

The new forts of Metz are being completed, and armed by Prussian engineers. The officers of the garrison, expecting to remain there, have sent for their families.

Alsatian Mobiles, prisoners of war, who own real property, are released on signing a document signifying their consent to the confiscation of their land if they fight again against Germany.

A letter of General Cambriels to M. Gambetta repeats the accusation of treason or incapacity current against him, and demands his trial by court-martial.

The war is said to cost Germany 150,000*l.* a day. The expense up to the present time is estimated at about nineteen millions.

M. Drouyn de Lhuys writes to the London papers to say that he has never sent his adhesion in writing to the Government of the National Defence, although no one desires more ardently than he does that it should succeed in its task.

A meeting convened by circular, held on Monday at the Cannon-street Hotel, of persons desirous of seeing peace restored on the Continent, a resolution proposed by Dr. Charles Mackay was adopted, declaring that the war in France having ceased on the part of Prussia to be a war of defence, and become a war of aggression, Prussia has "forfeited the sympathy, and incurred the reprobation, of the British and of all other free nations." Amendments, moved by the Revs. C. M. Murphy and Newman Hall, and supported by Mr. Edmond Beales and others, urging the British Government to continue its efforts to bring about peace, but declining to pronounce an opinion on the comparative merits of the belligerents, were negatived by a large majority. M. de Fonvielle, editor of *La Liberté*, addressed the meeting, and spoke hopefully of the prospect of a successful resistance on the part of the Parisians.

A Paris balloon, with carrier pigeons and two passengers, in charge of a mail consisting of letters and newspapers of the 25th instant, has descended eight miles from Christiania.

THE MILITARY SITUATION IN FRANCE.

(From the *Pall Mall Gazette*.)

The positions of the German armies on the 24th of November, as far as they can be made out, were as follows:—

Investing Paris: The Third Army (2nd, 5th, 6th, and 2nd Bavarian corps, the 21st, the Würtemberg, and Landwehr Guard Divisions) and the Fourth Army (4th, 12th, and Guards corps); in all seventeen divisions.

Army of Observation, protecting this investment: To the north, the First Army (1st and 8th corps); to the west and south-west, Duke of Mecklenburg's army (17th and 22nd divisions, and 1st Bavarian corps); to the south, the Second Army (3rd, 9th, and 10th corps, and a division of landwehr, a detachment of which was so severely handled at Châtillon by Ricciotti Garibaldi); in all fifteen divisions.

On special duty, in the south-east of France, the 14th corps (Werder's, consisting of two divisions and a half), and 15th corps; in Metz and about Thionville, the 7th corps; on the line of communication, at least a division and a half of landwehr; in all eight divisions at least.

Of these forty divisions of infantry, the first seventeen are at present fully engaged before Paris; the last eight show by their immobility that they have as much work cut out for them as they can manage. There remain disposable for the field the fifteen divisions composing the three armies of observation, and representing, with cavalry and artillery, a total force of some 200,000 combatants at most.

Now, before the 9th of November, there appeared to be no serious obstacle to prevent this mass of men from overrunning the greater part of central and even southern France. But since then things have changed considerably. And it is not so much the fact of Von der Tann having been beaten and compelled to retreat, or that of D'Aurelle having shown his ability to handle his troops well, which has inspired us with a greater respect for the Army of the Loire than we confess we had up to that day; it is chiefly the energetic measures which Moltke took to

meet its expected march on Paris which have made that army appear in quite a different light. Not only did he find it necessary to hold in readiness against it, even at the risk of raising *de facto* the investment of Paris, the greater portion of the blockading forces on the south side of the town, but he also changed at once the direction of march of the two armies arriving from Metz, so as to draw them closer to Paris, and to have the whole of the German forces concentrated around that city; and we now hear that, moreover, steps were taken to surround the siege park with defensive works. Whatever other people may think, Moltke evidently does not consider the Army of the Loire an armed rabble, but a real, serious redoubtable army.

The previous uncertainty as to the character of that army resulted to a great extent from the reports of the English correspondents at Tours. There appears to be not one military man among them capable of distinguishing the characteristics by which an army differs from a mob of armed men. The reports varied from day to day regarding discipline, proficiency in drill, numbers, armament, equipment, artillery, transport—in short, regarding everything essential to form an opinion. We all know the immense difficulties under which the new army had to be formed; the want of officers, of arms, of horses, of all kinds of *matériel*, and especially the want of time. The reports which came to hand, principally dwelt upon these difficulties; and thus, the Army of the Loire was generally underrated by people whose sympathies do not run away with their judgment.

Now the same correspondents are unanimous in its praise. It is said to be better officered and better disciplined than the armies which succumbed at Sedan and in Metz. This is no doubt the case to a certain extent. There is evidently a far better spirit pervading it than ever was to be found in the Bonapartist armies: a determination to do the best for the country, to co-operate, to obey orders on that account. Then this army has learned again one very important thing which Louis Napoleon's army had quite forgotten—light infantry duty, the art of protecting flanks and rear from surprise, of feeling for the enemy, surprising his detachments, procuring information and prisoners. The *Times* correspondent with the Duke of Mecklenburg gives proofs of that. It is now the Prussians who cannot learn the whereabouts of their enemy, and have to grope in the dark; formerly it was quite the reverse. An army which has learned that has learned a great deal. Still, we must not forget that the Army of the Loire as well as its sister Armies of the West and North has still to prove its mettle in a general engagement and against something like equal numbers. But, upon the whole, it promises well, and there are circumstances which make it probable that even a great defeat will not affect it as seriously as such an event does most young armies.

The fact is, that the brutalities and cruelties of the Prussians, instead of stamping out popular resistance, have redoubled its energies; so much so that the Prussians seem to have found out their mistake, and these burnings of villages and massacres of peasants are now scarcely ever heard of. But this treatment has had its effect, and every day the guerilla warfare takes larger dimensions. When we read in the *Times* the reports about Mecklenburg's advance towards Le Mans, with no enemy in sight, no regular force offering resistance in the field, but cavalry and *Francs-tireurs* hovering about the flanks, no news as to the whereabouts of the French troops, and the Prussian troops kept close together in pretty large bodies, we cannot help being reminded of the marches of Napoleon's marshals in Spain, or of Bazaine's troops in Mexico. And, that spirit of popular resistance once roused, even armies of 200,000 men do not go very far towards the occupation of a hostile country. They soon arrive at the point beyond which their detachments become weaker than what the defence can oppose to them; and it depends entirely upon the energy of popular resistance how soon that line shall be reached. Thus even a defeated army soon finds a safe place from the pursuit of an enemy if only the people of the country arise; and this may turn out to be the case now in France. And if the population in the districts occupied by the enemy should rise, or merely his lines of communication be repeatedly broken, the limit beyond which the invasion becomes powerless will be still more contracted. We should not wonder, for instance, if Mecklenburg's advance, unless powerfully supported by Prince Frederick Charles, turned out to have been pushed too far even now.

For the present everything of course hinges upon Paris. If Paris hold out another month—and the reports on the state of provisions inside do not at all exclude that chance—France may possibly have an army in the field large enough, with the aid of popular resistance, to raise the investment by a successful attack upon the Prussian communications. The machinery for organising armies appears to be working pretty well in France by this time. There are more men than are wanted; thanks to the resources of modern industry and the rapidity of modern communications, arms are forthcoming in unexpectedly large quantities; 400,000 rifles have arrived from America alone; artillery is manufactured in France with a rapidity hitherto quite unknown. Even officers are found, or trained, somehow. Altogether, the efforts which France has made since Sedan to reorganise her national defence are unexampled in history, and require but one element for almost certain success—time. If Paris holds out but one month more, that it will go much towards it. And if Paris should not be so provisioned for that length of time, Trochu may attempt to break through the investing lines with such of his troops as may be fit for the work; and it would be bold to say, now, that he

cannot possibly succeed in it. If he should succeed, Paris would still absorb a garrison of at least three Prussian army corps to keep it quiet, so that Trochu might have set free more Frenchmen than the surrender of Paris would set free Germans. And, whatever the fortress of Paris can do if defended by Frenchmen, it is evident that it could never be successfully held by a German force against French besiegers. There would be as many men required to keep the people down within as to man the ramparts to keep off the attack from without. Thus the fall of Paris may, but does not of necessity, imply the fall of France.

It is a bad time just now for speculating on the probability of this or that event in the war. We have an approximate knowledge of one fact only—the strength of the Prussian armies. Of another, the strength, numerical and intrinsic, of the French forces, we know but little. And, moreover, there are now moral factors at work which are beyond all calculation, and of which we can only say that they are all of them favourable to France and unfavourable to Germany. But this much appears certain, that the contending forces are more equally balanced just now than they ever have been since Sedan, and that a comparatively weak reinforcement of trained troops to the French might restore the balance altogether.

AN INTERVIEW WITH BISMARCK.

The *New York World* contains the following report of statements made on the 21st of November by Count Bismarck to a correspondent of that journal, who left Versailles on that day and arrived in London on the night of the 24th. The correspondent says that the conversation which he relates was held under peculiar circumstances, which "cannot now be stated"; but he affirms that he has given almost the exact words used by Count Bismarck.

The conversation commenced by the mention on the part of Count Bismarck of the great dissatisfaction with the so-called Bismarck plan of the campaign, especially in relation to Paris, which existed in Germany, and which found expression in the press. The manifold motives prompting and strengthening the longing for the consummation of the campaign by the capture of Paris—popular passion, domestic distress, and the host of other motives, real and unreal—were mentioned; and the Chancellor then went on to say that the capture of Paris, thus clamoured for, must be brought about sooner or later to satisfy the folks at home. But respecting both the time and means for effecting this, public opinion was much astray, and bestowed its animadversions unjustly. Had the Chancellor's counsel been followed, Paris would have been attacked long ago, as was known to those conversant with the ways and wishes of the head of affairs as now administered in Versailles. When the forces led by General Von Blumenthal to victory at Weissenburg and Wörth emerged from the Vosges and marched on towards Châlons, where the cavalry under Prince Albrecht rested, Count Von Moltke decided that they should come up and help to annihilate the army which had so hurriedly abandoned Châlons. Count Bismarck strongly urged that they might be allowed to continue their march on the capital, then almost unprepared for a siege; that they should occupy the city, or, if not able to accomplish so much, that they should at least cut it off from the rest of France, which should then be overrun as quickly as possible. When the Department of Seine-et-Oise was reached, it was found but the husk of a shell hard to crack. Then came a new question—How was the kernel to be reached? At first it was determined upon bombarding the city—of which intention the open secret of the German park of artillery at Villecoubly was ample proof. Then came a new disagreement, the result of which was that the King, under the advice of General Von Moltke, decided to let famine reduce the capital, trusting, also, that internal discord would hasten the capitulation. Count Bismarck now "ceased to disguise his indignation that he was no longer asked to the councils wherein great questions were decided." In 1866 no important proposition was decided without his advice and presence; but now great changes or whole plans were adopted without consulting him, while popular disapproval fell upon him. Those who said it was his fault that Paris had not been bombarded were wholly in error. He had most ardently desired it—had most strenuously urged it. The Chancellor also said that he attributed the halting and partial failure at German unity to the delay resulting from the opposite scheme. Had his advice been accepted and followed, the Government and people of Bavaria and Wurtemberg would have been carried in by the wave which swept over Germany; and the grand scheme of a united Vaterland and a Deutscher Kaiser would have become a reality, instead of the half-hearted Confederation now about to be born. "For me," added the Chancellor, "the great object of the war never lay on this bank of the Rhine, but on the other side, where I hoped should exist one great country, one great people, and one great Emperor."

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

PRUSSIAN FESTIVITIES AT VERSAILLES.—Dr. Russell describes the scene at the State Dinner given in the Prefecture of Versailles on the 21st in honour of the Princess Royal's birthday. The King, Crown Prince, about fourteen of the Princes of Germany, generals, &c., appeared in full uniform and with all their decorations. There was only one black coat in the whole room. The King, before the service of the table was announced, went round among his guests, stopping to speak with those, returning the salutations of others, and for a time His Majesty

stood in the centre of the room *à-la-carte* with Count Bismarck, and smiled several times as the Chancellor spoke to him. Dinner was served in a very handsome hall perfectly lighted, the table being laid with two short flanks at right angles, so that nearly every one could see the King and the Crown Prince, in spite of epergnes and vases filled with flowers. The King, preceded by the Grand Marshal, led the way, and was followed by the Crown Prince. The dinner was admirable. At 5:30 the trumpets outside the hall sounded a flourish as the King rose with a brimming glass in his hand, and turning to the Crown Prince by his side, gave, "The Health of the Crown Princess of Prussia." His Royal Highness rose as His Majesty did so, and touched the glass with his, and simultaneously up got the whole company and each drained his bumper to the toast—the only one of the evening. When the sweetmeats were handed round it was seen that some cunning master in sugar had paraded batteries of cannon, with French flags thereon, as a compliment to the *genius loci*. The dinner did not last longer than an hour, if so long, and the King, as before, led the way to the drawing-room, where coffee and tea were served, but no smoking was permitted. To the English present the Prince Royal was exceedingly gracious. And let us say "Good night," make our reverences, and retire, hoping that many a happy anniversary of the day may come in peaceful scenes, amid the hum of industrious millions secure of liberty, when there shall be no tear of orphan and of widow, no cry of agony, no tumult of battle to mar the enjoyment of the hour; and when the pleasures of the banquet may not be embittered by the thought that near at hand there is a starving multitude—enemies indeed, but starving still, and that Death stands at the gate.

THE MUDDLE AT TOURS.—The special correspondent of the *Telegraph*, writing from Tours on the 22nd, says:—"I have witnessed the exodus of a large body of troops from Tours, en route to the front: and in that exodus I have seen more stupid mismanagement than I have beheld during the quarter of a century it has been my lot to see troops on the field either as a soldier or as a press-correspondent. You will hardly believe that some 10,000 men—a great portion of whom came up yesterday from Toulon, a fourteen hours' journey by rail, to Tours—were marched to the Boulevard near the railway-station, about half-past two a.m., and that, owing to some muddle or mismanagement on the part of either the War Office or the railway, they were kept standing in a pouring rain, some for five, and others for fifteen hours. A small portion got away about seven a.m., after which they were moved off in parties of two or three hundred each every half-hour; and it was ten minutes past four in the afternoon when the last of the infantry took their departure. The condition of the poor fellows after this pitiless trial I leave you to imagine. They had nothing to eat except what a few of the neighbouring inhabitants on the Boulevards gave them, and the dry bread they had put in their packs. After this fearful exposure they had a four hours' railway journey to Le Mans (Sarthe), where, as it is reported, they will have to meet the enemy to-morrow. Could the cleverest agent of Bismarck have managed anything more admirably adapted to cause the defeat of the French soldiers? And this, mind you, under the very eyes of the War Office at Tours, over which Gambetta of the fiery tongue and flaming pen rules! I am not writing from hearsay; what I saw passed below my window, under my own eyes. Why these poor fellows could not have been placed in barracks until their respective trains were ready—or why, in a town of 50,000 inhabitants, like Tours, they could not have been billeted upon the inhabitants, and then marched as they were wanted to the station—or why in such an emergency a couple or three large trains could not have taken off the whole division, I leave others more experienced than I am in the intricacies of French official life to decide. I spoke to several of the men who were crouched about the door of the house I am living in. They were soaked through and through, and shivering from wet and cold; and many of them had already symptoms of ague upon them. Their regimental captains and subalterns remained with them; but I did not see a staff or a field officer come near them. The poor fellows told me they had not had a warm meal since they left Toulon on Monday forenoon, and it was then Tuesday afternoon. In a word, it seemed to me as if the world had gone back four months, and I was once more witnessing the muddle, maladministration, and confusion, under the Imperial régime, at Saarbrück, at Wörth, and in the valley of the Moselle. But the mismanagement of the cavalry about to start for Le Mans with these troops was even greater than that of the infantry; for, although the dragoons did not suffer so much, their treatment was much more inexplicable. A regiment of Dragoons, encamped outside Tours, struck their tents by order at nine a.m., and were marched to the railway-station at 11.30 in the forenoon. At three o'clock the troopers—all unloaked, although the rain was falling in torrents—were still on their horses at the station; not a man of them had yet started for his destination. One thing struck me very forcibly, however, as regards the French soldiers themselves. Never were more light-hearted beings in the world. When, at 2.30 a.m., in bitter cold and in a drenching rain, they were marched down the Boulevards, and then found it would be many hours ere even the first of them could get away, they immediately commenced singing, the 'Chant du Départ' and the 'Marseillaise,' being repeated again and again for at least three hours. But even patriotic songs cannot sustain a man against hunger, thirst, wet, and want of sleep; so, after a time, the men left off their singing, and

gradually subsided into a state of silent despair, relieved, however, from time to time by their natural gaiety and cheerfulness of disposition."

GREAT PREPARATIONS AT TOURS.—In this town preparations for war are going on with great system, great regularity, and upon an almost gigantic scale. This morning I counted twenty carts coming from the railway-station, each containing ten cases of rifles, and each case must have held fifty of these weapons. This makes a total of 10,000 rifles, which have just reached us from Brest, whither they had been brought from America. The rifles are, I believe, of the pattern called Remington, which the French greatly prefer to any other kind they have yet tried. Half-an-hour later I saw the train carrying off to some military station in the south 12,000 knapsacks that had been made in this neighbourhood. As for stores, there are contractors here who are ready and anxious to furnish the army with anything and everything it may want in the way of eating and drinking, or clothing, or war materials, no matter in what line or to what extent. I heard of one gentleman the other day who offered to deliver, within a fabulously short period, and for payment only when the goods should be brought to the house, a small matter of three complete Armstrong field batteries, horses, harness, and all complete. Where he could have got the "goods" is a marvel, unless he is in the habit of walking into the Woolwich Arsenal and carrying away 12-pounders in the pockets of his overcoat. The energy and determination shown in every Government department here to overcome all difficulties are certainly beyond praise, and form a great and sad contrast with what used to be seen at Strasbourg and Nancy before the war commenced. In those days there was a degree of *laissez aller* and feebleness of purpose, a want of forethought, which a child would have perceived. But we have changed all that now, and have run into the very opposite—and certainly better—extreme.—*Letter from Tours.*

WHAT A SORTIE FROM PARIS WOULD MEAN.—Late in the evening some of the officers were good enough to escort me to a low bluff on the edge of the wooded grounds of a chateau—an elevation which, trivial as it is, commands the whole of the flat expanse, the defensive margin of which is formed by Forts du Nord, de l'Est, and Aubervilliers. Here was the plain seen by moonlight, and Paris by some other light also, whether gas, oil, or candles, I know not. This plain is the first I have seen on the northern side of Paris where the configuration of the ground admits of a sortie in force. It was this flat, between the Canal de l'Ouroq and the rising grounds to the west of St. Denis, which was the theatre of the battle by which Blücher terminated the campaign of 1814, and gained Paris. The plateau is no longer an eligible space on which an army can manoeuvre itself into Paris, but a tempting expanse on which an army defending Paris might come out to do battle with the besieger. But this is only on theory. The greenest military student knows what must be the stamp of troops that will complete an effective deployment under an enemy's fire, and advance to the attack under the same. This is the imperative condition attached to a sortie on a large scale on this plateau; and Trochu, who knows what manner of men in the matter of discipline are his troops, does wise to shun it. And the difficulty of which I speak is only the difficulty on the threshold—the *pons asinorum*—of an offensive operation in force against the Prussian environment. How strong is the line which the besiegers hold athwart this plain is only to be realised by personal inspection, nor is it possible to communicate in detail the result of that personal inspection. It must suffice to say that, held by the strong force which is wisely judged requisite—a force consisting of the *élite* of the Prussian soldiery, each position turned to the very best account by the most careful and judicious engineering appliances, and with supports which are practically illimitable, available at short notice, I am prepared advisedly to give it as my opinion that the beleaguering line at this critical portion could resist an assault of a more formidable character than any which the garrison of Paris, from what we know of its character and appliances, can be judged capable of making.—*Letter from the Saxon Headquarters.*

COMPIÈGNE, Nov., 1870.—Leaving Pierrefonds behind us, we took the direct road through the centre of the forest to Compiègne; and at one o'clock General Von Guben and his staff rode into the Palace-yard. Dismounting from our horses, we ascended the great staircase in the centre of the quadrangle, and entered the magnificent hall, embellished by the two grand efforts of the Prince de Flahault. His Excellency's staff occupies the left, that of General Manteuffel the right wing of the Palace. In the centre are the chambers of audience, the magnificent ballroom, the famous Don Quixote Gallery, and the Imperial apartments. The last are unoccupied, and remain only open to view. Every care has been taken of the furniture and other belongings, and not a single article has been damaged in any way. Twenty servants of the Imperial establishment still remain, to take charge of the house. The chiefs of the staff find themselves quartered where Ministers of State and Marshals of France lived before them; aides-de-camp revel in the boudoirs of the Court ladies; while other officials are surrounded by objects of art, refinement, and taste with which a soldier but seldom meets during a campaign. "Have I seen the Empress's rooms?" I hear the ladies ask. Of course I have. Her Majesty's boudoir, hung with pale blue satin, was charming. Mirrors were on all sides of you—here, there, and everywhere. In the Emperor's library I found a copy of his own "Life of Cæsar"; not emblazoned with the Imperial arms, but bound

in a very matter-of-fact common-place cover. There were other reminiscences there, too painful to mention; and I was almost glad when I passed into the China drawing-room, "*le salon Chinois*," where the Emperor and Empress used, in the "fall," to pass many happy hours. It is now denuded of many of those landmarks that have made it familiar to English eyes. Most of them have gone to Tours; but the heavy portion of the furniture, the pictures, and most of the glass and china remain. The mention of the latter reminds me of the dinner we partook of that night. We ate off a cloth bestudded with N's; our plates, plain white and gold, were marked with the Imperial cypher; the glasses, too, each delicately cut with the Imperial crown and monogram, almost seemed to forbid us to lift them to our lips without the old toast of "*Vive l'Empereur!*" As I wandered from room to room through these gorgeous apartments, gazing at the works of delicacy and art with which each room is adorned, I could not help letting my memory wander back to the last time that I had seen the same scenes—the last time I had, gun in hand, passed a happy day in the woods that there surround me. Then the Palace, the Avenue de l'Impératrice, the town itself was a joyous scene, where each one, from the highest to the lowest, found amusement. How changed all that is now. The striped sentry-boxes where the Cent Gardes used to keep watch are empty, the Quadrangle resounds only to the music of "*Die Wacht am Rhein*," and the streets are deserted; while, as to the woods, they furnish sport and amusement to the staff of Generals Manteuffel and Von Guben. To be sure, it is rather a curious battue, for out of fifty or sixty officers only five or six possess guns; but then they shoot with Chassepots, needle-rifles, and carbines, and to-day they managed to kill with these somewhat non-offensive weapons about eighty head of game, principally pheasants. The two principal hotels in the town furnish us with excellent dinners, the Imperial cellar with Lafitte, Chateau Margaux, La Rose, Chateau d'Yarne, and plenty of champagne. If we have not the romantic surrounding so pleasantly depicted by Maxwell, we have at least one of the pleasures of life—"good eating and drinking."—*Special Correspondent with German Eighth Army.*

THE FRENCH FREE-SHOOTERS AND VOLUNTEERS.—Of these irregular battalions and companies a never-ending succession has passed through Tours during the last two months, and in many of their uniforms the picturesque has been considered almost as much as the requirements of hard work in the field. From every province of France, from the colonies, from foreign countries, they have flocked, in large or small bodies, obedient to the patriotic summons. They have come from the United States and Canada, from Algeria and Greece, from Italy and Spain, from Rio Janeiro and Montevideo. Almost all wear the short tunic or thick woollen blouse, generally of dark colours, black, green, blue, and brown, while some few corps have adopted the grays and buffs in favour among English volunteers. Leggings or gaiters of cloth, canvas, or leather are universal; many wear red or blue scarves round their waists; but it is in their head-dress that the greatest variety is to be found. There are Tyrolean and wide-awake hats of every description, with cockades of all sizes and feathers of every tint. The melodramatic brigand is largely represented among them: one is constantly reminded of Fra Diavolo and Massaroni and other well-known types and theatrical celebrities. The South American Corps has been got up with a particular eye to effect. Its chief, M. de Friès, here received the name of D'Artagnan, after Alexandre Dumas' slashing hero, and Mélingue himself never looked the part better. A tall, handsome young man in a Mousquetaire coat and plumed hat, with light-coloured moustaches of extraordinary length, the Captain of the Montevideans might have stood on guard in Anne of Austria's ante-room, or have sat as a model to Meissonier. He and his men wear the South American poncho as an overcoat, and it was reported that they carried the lasso, and could noose a horse at full speed and bring him to the ground. Doubtless this is a valuable accomplishment if they came in contact with the Uhlans, but upon the whole the chassepot might prove a more trusty weapon. The Basque battalion cut a good figure. It is composed of hardy mountaineers, used to toil up Pyrenean steep, and wearing their national head-dress, the flat *béret*, red, blue, or white, with a tassel pendant from its centre. Conspicuous among them was a vigorous old man, whose grey hair curled crisply from under his cap, and who was supposed to command the corps, but who turned out to be but a private volunteer, the Count de Barraute, whose son stood by his side in the ranks. Then there was the company of the Gers, formerly mentioned, only fifty picked men, in black costume, and who never spoke. They came into contact with the enemy some time ago, and more than half of them were killed. Twenty-two, who remained, were ordered to be shot, and actually paraded for that purpose, but their intrepidity in presence of death touched their captors, and their lives were spared. One finds men of all ranks in these guerilla bands. A battalion from Dauphiné had a distinguished lawyer for a trumpeter. Some of the corps have a *cantinière*, who wears its uniform slightly varied to suit her sex, and accompanies it on the march, her little barrel of spirits slung upon her left side. I have observed some of these ladies gazing admiringly at a smart tri-coloured keg with a brass spigot on sale in a tailor's window in the Rue Royale; for tailors and hosiers now deal in arms and accoutrements to meet the necessities of the time. The arming of the volunteers is various. The worst provided have the old Minié, but for this the Remington or Chassepot is substi-

tuted as soon as obtainable. Numbers of them carry revolvers, and in the sashes of a few I have observed poniards. One gentleman whom I yesterday met seemed to have a reminiscence of the *Dame Blanche* and of Highland costume, for an eagle's feather stuck up straight in front of a brimless cap not unlike a Scotch bonnet and an ivory hilted dirk was in his girdle. The Greek corps has a peculiar close-fitting cap with a band of black fur round the brow. Some of the larger bodies of Freeshooters have evidently been equipped as economically as possible, and their uniforms are of coarse, rough material. But they are nearly all well-shod and provided with good warm blankets.—*Letter from Tours.*

CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BESIEGERS OF PARIS.—A letter from a soldier before Paris, referring to the first fall of snow and M. Gambetta's probable exultation over the shivering Germans, says:—"We put another log on the fire and tranquilly read that blankets are already provided for the outposts, that furs are on their way for the sentries, and that fresh presents daily arrive, until everybody will be supplied with warm underclothing. Anxious souls at home need not, therefore, be uneasy. Things are not so bad as they mostly imagine, and nobody can now say that he has to suffer privations, even if he makes no use of the desirable things offered by the numerous sutlers established here." The outposts of both armies on the north and east seem to wish to spare each other. The Guards have been forbidden to practise further hospitality and to share their sausages with famished Mobiles, but with the 4th Corps such amenities frequently occur. The result is that isolated outposts do not shoot each other down. Fuel is believed to be very scarce in Paris, and General Trochu's refusing all egress is attributed to a desire to conceal the real state of the city. The Russian military plenipotentiary, Prince Wittgenstein, is detained in Paris under this order.

A WINE CAVE AND ITS INHABITANTS.—At Claye, a village about four miles from Versailles, on the road to Meaux, Metz, there were a fortnight ago only about a dozen French people to be seen. On Saturday week sixty reappeared, and the number has since increased to 120. There are immense wine caves around Claye, some of them constructed at a considerable depth below the surface; into these the terrified villagers had descended with their household goods, and there they have been lying concealed while the enemy has occupied the houses and stores and gardens above.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

PROSPECTS OF PEACE.

We understand from the *Echo* that, upon the assembling of the Cabinet Council on Monday, Lord Granville laid before his colleagues his rejoinder to the answer of Russia, and that it was unanimously approved. We have already indicated the tone of Prince Gortschakoff's reply. He does not wish to reopen the Eastern Question; he is concerned at the feeling which his note has produced; he regards the denunciation as necessary in reference to the defensive policy of Russia. To all this Lord Granville has, we believe, replied not by demanding a withdrawal of the despatch, as was rashly counselled, but by showing to Russia in firm, and at the same time in conciliatory language, that, if she proceeds to act upon such a denunciation, the Powers will feel it incumbent upon them to maintain the treaty. We think it probable that this, in conjunction with representations made by Prussia, will dispose Russia to moderate counsels, to withdrawal from her present attitude, and to acceptance of the proposal for a Conference. We rejoice at the prospect of the continuance of peace which is thus afforded—a prospect which is very much due to the judicious and honourable policy pursued with so much ability by Lord Granville. We believe that Her Majesty was graciously pleased on Monday to express her entire approval of the Foreign Minister's despatch, and that information of its tenour was despatched to Versailles by a Queen's Messenger.

The special correspondent of the *Times* sends the following telegram from Versailles, dated Sunday night:—"A settlement may be hoped for soon on the bases of a Conference to be held at London and the withdrawal of the Russian Note. Constantinople and St. Petersburg were proposed; London finally, and was readily accepted by Count Bismark. It is understood that Russia will yield willingly to friendly representation and a Conference, as proposed by Prussia."

A letter from Versailles, dated Nov. 22nd, says:—"The news that England had taken up the gauntlet so wantonly thrown down to her by Russia produced an effect only comparable to that which would have been produced by a shell from Mont Valérien crashing through the roof. 'But this means fighting,' said a grand-duke, after puzzling twice through the despatch to see if no loophole of escape could be found. Altogether, Count Bismark has, as usual, kept his own counsel admirably. Although he must have read the despatch at least forty-eight hours previously, no rumour of its contents had been breathed abroad. The effect here on all classes of the Germans has been greater for the suddenness of the blow—for blow it most undoubtedly is to the Prussians. Very likely Lord Granville's prompt

action and plain speaking may cause the Federal Chancellor to repudiate all complicity in the Russian designs."

The reply of Count Beust to the circular of Prince Gortschakoff points out that there can be no doubt as to the mutual obligations involved in the Treaty of 1856, which cannot by one party be modified or annulled. It is merely in deference due to the Cabinet of St. Petersburg that Count Beust proceeds to an analysis of the arguments advanced by Prince Gortschakoff. The fact that Turkey can maintain a fleet where Russia cannot could only warrant a desire for a revision of the treaty, but never its arbitrary dissolution. This argument only increases the gravity of the step taken by Russia, as such maxims endanger all existing and future treaties. Turkey is not responsible for the alleged breach of treaty by the union of the Danubian Principalities. Turkey does not demand the sanction of this breach of treaty, which infringes upon her rights and interests. The entry into the Black Sea of foreign men-of-war having Princes on board was a harmless proceeding, of which Russia should have complained if deemed objectionable. The Austro-Hungarian Government learns with painful regret the resolve of Russia, and expresses its deep surprise thereat. It cannot but direct the serious attention of the Cabinet of St. Petersburg to the consequences of such a proceeding.

A further Note of Count Beust addressed to the Austrian Ambassador, Count Chotek, at St. Petersburg, refutes the allegation which imputed to Count Beust his having taken the initiative in this matter in January, 1857. At that time the Russian Imperial Chancellor himself deemed the action of Count Beust precipitate, as tending to excite the suspicion of the French Government, and as no satisfactory result could be expected from a Congress. Besides, according to the proposals of Count Beust at that time, the different co-signatories—but not a single Power by itself—were to proceed to a revision of the treaty. At that time, too, the proposal of Count Beust was not of a nature to call forth dangerous consequences, while the present isolated proceeding of Russia creates serious misgivings, as the Christian populations of the East will think that Russia had deemed the moment opportune to take the solution of the Eastern question in hand.

The *North German Correspondent* has the following leading article:—"There is an important difference between the obligations to the Porte which have been undertaken by England, France, and Austria, and those of the other Powers that signed the Peace of Paris. In the preamble of the treaty, and in its seventh article, the independence of the Porte and the integrity of the Ottoman Empire are guaranteed. The Cabinets of London, Vienna, and Paris undertook further obligations, and for this purpose the treaty of the 15th of April, 1856, was concluded. According to the latter document, the Powers which signed it engaged, not only, in Article I., to support the independence and integrity of the Turkish Empire, but, in Article II., to consider the violation of any stipulation of the Treaty of Paris of the 30th of March, 1856, as a *casus belli*. The great difference between these two treaties is obvious. Italy, Prussia, and Russia have not, like the other Powers, guaranteed the neutralisation of the Black Sea. They are not therefore affected by the question, whether the steps taken by Russia to put an end to the neutrality of these waters form a *casus belli* or not; as neither the independence of the Porte nor the integrity of the Ottoman Empire is threatened. Italy and Prussia, therefore, occupy the same position with respect to the Peace of Paris of the 30th of March, 1856, which is taken up by any Power that signs a collective treaty."

The St. Petersburg semi-official *Golos*, in reply to an article in the *Times* charging Russia with an intended breach of the Treaty of Paris, says that Russia scorned to modify that compact by forced interpretations, as has been so often done by her adversaries, but openly denounced an agreement which had been violated by everybody else. Russia, moreover, would have had no objection to lay her grievances before a conference, could she have hoped for redress.

According to reports in circulation at St. Petersburg, it has been determined to hold a Conference of the Powers in London, to take into consideration the position which Russia has assumed with regard to the Black Sea question. It is confidently expected in St. Petersburg that the Conference will ratify what has been done by the Russian Government.

The Italian Note in answer to Russia, dated the 24th of November, has been despatched to St. Petersburg. It remonstrates in courteous terms against the one-sided denunciation of the Treaty of 1856 contained in Prince Gortschakoff's Circular.

General Ignatieff had an audience of the Sultan on Friday afternoon on the subject of the revision of the Treaty of 1856. At Constantinople the panic has, it is said, somewhat subsided, but there is still a feeling of doubt and uneasiness. Military and naval preparations continue. An American officer has been appointed superintendent of the factory for the construction of torpedoes. The conviction is that all depends on the firmness of the Government and the attitude of England.

A letter from Versailles says:—"The great homesickness prevalent among the Germans of all states and all ranks will go far to stop any movement—any real movement—against England."

The following address has been presented by the St. Petersburg Town Council to the Czar:—

Your Majesty, in your incessant solicitude for the welfare of the nation providentially entrusted to you, has intimated an intention to improve the defenceless condition of our southern shores. We, the citizens of St. Petersburg, while fully sensible of the blessings of peace, are fully convinced that its consolidation cannot be

effected on a more durable basis than your Imperial will has announced in the firm, candid, and equitable despatch of your Chancellor of State, dated October 31st. We recognise the beneficial result of the announcement made in your Majesty's name to the Powers who were parties to the Treaty of Paris of 1856, and, prostrating ourselves at your Majesty's feet, venture to express our respectful gratitude for the measures which your wisdom, Sire, has adopted for the protection, the safety, and dignity of Russia. We are, &c.

In reply to this address the Emperor ordered a dignitary of his Court to convey his thanks to the Town Council. The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Independence Belge* says that the draft of the address was revised by Prince Gortschakoff himself before it was submitted by the Mayor to the Council. The line in which the town councillors express their appreciation of the blessings of peace was interpolated by the Minister.

Addresses of thanks to the Emperor Alexander have been received from the Smolensk Diet and the nobility, the Bessarabian Diet and the nobility, and from all classes of the population.

An Imperial decree has been issued in Russia, according to which, besides the unlimited furloughs to which the soldiers are entitled by law after ten years' service, temporary furloughs are likewise to be granted to those whose term of service expires in 1871, 1872, and 1873 respectively.

A Vienna telegram of Monday's date says:—"It is reported here, though not on authority placing the statement absolutely beyond question, that Count Bismarck, by desire of King William, has written to urge on Prince Gortschakoff the earnest hope that Russia will accept the mediation of Prussia in regard to the complaints alleged regarding the Treaty of Paris; and promising, in the event of Russia's compliance, that the influence of Prussia will be exerted to secure such modifications of the treaty as will be acceptable to the Russian Government."

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Telegraph* writing on the 19th says:—

To say nothing of the immediate horrors of war, there is nothing passing here which can favour the idea that Russia is seriously seeking a pretext for engaging in a contest. Such a conflict would, in all probability, be long, certainly doubtful; it would lead to financial ruin; and from it, even if she came out victorious, Russia could scarcely gain anything more than she might obtain now by pacific negotiations. Do reasonable people, the educated classes in general, here, express the slightest desire for war? No; decidedly not. Every one trusts that peace will be preserved. The grave looks and eager desire for conciliatory despatches from England only speak too clearly of the dread they have lest the question should have to be decided on the battle-field. But Englishmen will naturally ask: Why have the Russian Government taken the bold step of repudiating the Treaty, or at least a part of the Treaty, of Paris, without asking the consent of the contracting Powers? "Oh," say the Russians, "we learn from experience. Did we not defeat the schemes of the Western Powers in precisely the same manner at the time of the Polish insurrection; and if that line of policy succeeded then, much more will it do so now, when France, England's only powerful ally, is sprawling in the mire, and all the other Powers are so much occupied with questions of internal policy that there is no opposition to be looked for from them. Centuries may pass before another such opportunity may arrive; and why should we ask, when there is every chance of our demands being refused?"

It is stated that the Russian declaration was not forced upon the Emperor by his Ministers, but it was, on the contrary, the Emperor who proposed the measure himself at a Council. His Majesty said he was determined to wipe out the blot on Russia's honour. The time had come. France powerless, Germany friendly, England of no account—such were the arguments used, and such they are still in St. Petersburg.

The *Standard* correspondent at Versailles states that Count Bismarck distinctly and very positively repudiates having been privy to the Czar's resolution, and protests that he much regrets the step which has been taken. It is possible that diplomacy has laws of its own foreign to unsophisticated candour, but in that case there must exist a vast conspiracy of falsehood, for the language of the Chancellor is the language of every German person of eminence at Versailles, commencing with the highest personage of all, and travelling downwards.

Postscript.

Wednesday, November 30th, 1870.

THE WAR.

(From the *Daily News*.)

An engagement took place on Monday between the troops of the "Red Prince" and the Army of the Loire; but it was not the great battle that we have all been expecting. We have short accounts of it from both sides; each speaks of it in very moderate terms, and though each boasts an advantage, neither claims a victory. The report from Tours, which appears not to be official, leaves the impression that the Prussians attacked the French, as only the "repulse" of the former is spoken of; but this has become so common a way of reporting battles that it is unsafe to infer anything from it. The Tours correspondent says that "the enemy was successfully repulsed with material loss," and that "many prisoners and one gun were taken by the French." The German account, which is based upon the report of Prince Frederick Charles, states that the engagement arose out of an attack by the French, who were in greatly superior numbers, on the Tenth Army Corps. The strength of the Prussian corps was thereupon concentrated at Beaune la Ro-

lande, a town with about two thousand inhabitants, midway between Pithiviers and Montargis, just outside the great Forest of Orleans. The attack was thus made with the French right, which we know had been strengthened a day or two before, against the Prussian left; possibly in the hope of driving the Prince from the line by which he receives his supplies. The Prussian writer states that the Tenth Corps stood its ground until the Fifth Infantry and the First Cavalry divisions arrived, and the Prince with them. Singularly, the writer does not proceed to state what movement was then made, but speaks only of results. The German loss was about 1,000 men, that of the enemy was considerable, and several hundred French prisoners were taken. Assuming that, as the Versailles account states, the French attacked, and with superior forces, the enterprise failed, although as a reconnaissance it may have been useful. The decisive battle, however, has yet to be fought, and will probably be delayed until Prince Frederick Charles suddenly takes the initiative. Our correspondent who writes from Orleans states that the French commander is, or at least was a week ago, embarrassed by the want of wagon trains, which keeps him from moving with freedom. This was the reason why the successes of the 9th and 10th were not followed up. The French are strengthening their position at Orleans. They have been making earthworks to a considerable distance, beginning outside the town to the north. Every available vantage ground has been fortified, and heavy guns, served by naval gunners, have been placed on these works, so that Orleans will not be re-entered on the north side without a struggle and much loss to the assailant. A pontoon bridge has been thrown across the Loire. The fighting on Monday took place, however, twenty-two miles from Orleans, and nearer the Loire than the Loire.

Something in the nature of a sortie took place before Paris yesterday morning. On Saturday the French advanced in the direction of Choisy-le-Roi. A Prussian corps awaited them on the road, permitted them to advance, and then received them with a withering fire. Our correspondent at Versailles describes the affair as a reconnaissance on the part of the French, and states that their losses were severe. The advance of Saturday appears to have been preparatory to a more serious attack, which was made yesterday morning at nine o'clock in the same direction; again the French were repulsed with loss, and 250 prisoners were taken, while the loss of the Germans, who occupied a defensive position, was comparatively small. The attempt will probably be repeated in the same direction, if further sorties are made, as the French have peculiar advantages in the possession of the redoubts of Villejuif and Montreuil.

Accounts from Boulogne, derived from fugitives from Amiens, states that the Mobiles behaved very badly on Sunday in the action before the latter city. They threw down their arms and fled, leaving the Marine Infantry, who fought obstinately, to bear the brunt of the conflict. The line of action extended from Villers Bretonneux to Saleux, the hottest fight being at Boves and Dury. The artillery that went out from Dury ran short of ammunition, and was only saved by the Marines. A correspondent at Boulogne, who was at Amiens until the end of last week, states that he left it in the most perfect tranquillity, confident in the certainty of repelling the enemy. On Sunday night, when Boulogne was crowded, it being the end of the great fair, it became known that important news had arrived, and the whole population went to the Prefecture. In the midst of the excitement an order arrived that the Garde Mobile should be summoned without a minute's delay to the Caserne, and leave for Amiens forthwith by special train. Two rumours then got abroad; one that Amiens was in imminent danger, and that all the available troops were called in for the last defence; another that the Prussians had been beaten, and that the Garde Mobile had been telegraphed for to join in the pursuit. Subsequently a second telegram arrived, countermarching the troops, alleging as a reason that they were not properly armed. The men themselves seemed anxious to be off. Subsequently the following telegram reached Boulogne:—"The army is in retreat towards Doullens. Arrest the movement of all troops that were ordered to Amiens and Albest. The National Guard will not be directed on these points. Organise every possible means of defence, and scour the country as far as possible towards the south. Forward without delay to headquarters the fullest intelligence relative to the army, and, above all, be on the alert night and day. Call upon the people by every possible means to rise for the national defence, which is now more than ever in the hands of the country. *Que tout le monde se leve!*"

On Monday a force of 70,000 Germans occupied Amiens. The French army retreated in good order, and without being harassed by the enemy. A Berlin telegram says:—"From private sources at Versailles it is announced that there is no truth in the report that the King was going to the Army of the Loire. General Werdersee has been sent forward to Prince Frederick Charles. It is believed that if the French Army of the Loire can be surrounded as was that of the Emperor Napoleon at Sedan, before the 5th of December the war will be over."

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

According to a despatch from Poth, Prussia's proposal for a conference *ad hoc* has been notified there. Austria is not averse in principle, but makes its adhesion dependent upon the decision of several preliminary points, and among them that its acceptance

is not to be taken as an adherence to Russia's views.

A St. Petersburg telegram says—"Turkey has not yet consented to a conference, but probably will, as she is actuated by a desire for peace. She does not object to the Russian demands, or care for the neutrality of the Black Sea. The Turkish statesmen are far less excited than the English. It is rumoured that the Sultan has sent an autograph letter to the Government here on the subject. The *Exchange Gazette* says it is glad that a conference has been proposed, as it shows the wisdom of the form adopted in the Russian note. In no other way could a conference have been obtained. Russia will gladly consent if the other Powers admit the *fait accompli*."

ELECTION OF THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.

(From the *Standard*.)

The first Education Parliament for the London district was elected yesterday, and the accounts from the several divisions of the metropolis agree in representing that the elections were universally conducted with an amount of order and decorum that is creditable in the highest degree to all engaged in the contest. Numerous public meetings during the last six weeks, and a plentiful distribution of cards and addresses, with here and there a brisk canvass, had helped to make the claims of the rival candidates tolerably well understood by the ratepayers; and in addition to the services of local committees constituted of zealous partisans, the pulpit itself was not silent, and the "drum ecclesiastic" was beaten with considerable effect on Sunday last. In every district there was a plethora of candidates, representing every phase of religious opinion, and even of no opinion; but all, with few and obvious exceptions, avowed their anxious desire that religious instruction, based upon the Bible, should enter into the teaching of the rate-supported schools. The services of the candidate in the cause of education, and the question of utilising existing schools, and thereby economising the rates, seemed to occupy the foreground in every mind. Another feature which is to be regarded as a hopeful augury for the future of the elementary education experiment was the social status of most of the candidates, and the nearly entire absence of that most objectionable element, the vestrymen, whilst the working classes, in many instances, had an opportunity of giving their support to the men who belonged to their own order. The poll was opened precisely at eight o'clock in the morning, and was closed at eight in the evening; but in consequence of the adoption of the cumulative system of voting, and the ballot (except in the City), and the labour and time thereby involved in casting up the numbers, it will be impossible to learn the results until this day at the earliest. So far as the arrangements for taking the poll was concerned, they were pretty much the same in every division. At a table presided a gentleman who represented the returning officer, and at his elbow sat the rate-collector, with his books lying open before him. To these officials the voter presented himself, announced his name and residence, and these on reference being found correct, he received from a clerk appointed for the purpose a paper bearing the names of the several candidates. The voter then withdrew to a desk, one of a row, partitioned in on either side, and provided with a pen and ink, with which he wrote opposite the name of the candidate or candidates the number of votes he meant to give. This duty performed, he folded the paper, and dropped it into a ballot-box through a slit in the cover; being protected from interference or prying eyes by a policeman standing guard, whilst the process of depositing the paper in the box was superintended by a sworn clerk. Where a voter was unable to write—and there were many examples of the sort—a clerk sworn to secrecy filled up the paper for him, which he then disposed of in the same way as others. It was only at the close of the day that the regularity and order prevailing until then were at all disturbed, and that was experienced only in crowded districts, where the voters came up in such numbers as to be too much for the officials to grapple with. In the streets there was very little of the appearances which are usually observable even at the parish elections. On the whole, the elections went off in an admirable manner; the system of voting adopted worked well; and we have every reason to hope that, although a vast proportion of the constituency remained unpollled, the result will be the formation of a School Board that will justify the most sanguine aspirations of the friends of popular education.

In the City there was open voting, but the result is not accurately known. At eight o'clock, when the poll closed, the following were the results as given by the committees:—

	Mr. Cotton's List.	Mr. Gover's List.
Mr. Rogers ..	3,486	6,675
Mr. Ald. Cotton ..	3,862	4,978
Mr. Morley, M.P. ..	2,914	4,655
Mr. Gover ..	2,751	4,609
Mr. Hastings ..	2,114	3,672
Mr. Mackenzie ..	2,046	3,131
Mr. Knight ..	1,153	1,836
Mr. Chubb ..	589	941

It may, therefore, be presumed that Mr. Rogers, Mr. Cotton, Mr. Morley, and Mr. Gover are elected. Mr. Rogers and Mr. Cotton, who head the poll, are members of the Church of England, while Mr. Morley and Mr. Gover are Nonconformists.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

Owing to the more favourable weather, the grain-trade at Mark-lane to-day exhibited a somewhat firm appearance. Nevertheless the business passing was on a very limited scale. There was a limited supply of English wheat on sale, while the arrivals from abroad were only moderate.

TO ADVERTISERS.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"J."—*L'Evangeliste*, which may, we believe, be seen at the Wesleyan Book-room, Paternoster-row.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1870.

SUMMARY.

PRINCE GORTSCHAKOFF's rejoinder to Earl Granville's reply to the celebrated Russian Circular on the Treaty of Paris was under the consideration of a Cabinet Council on Saturday and Monday. The Russian statesman's new despatch is not yet published, but according to all reports both in London and the continental capitals, it is conciliatory in tone, but firm in substance. From a statement in the *Times*, we gather that the reply of our Government to Prince Gortschakoff's second Note reaffirms, in more decided language, the protest against the Russian assumption to set aside the Paris Treaty, and announces that any attempt to carry out the policy proclaimed at St. Petersburg will be resisted. But as we intimated last week, Prince Gortschakoff's first Note was a great surprise and trouble to Count Bismark, who immediately proposed to mediate between the various Powers. It is announced from Versailles that "a settlement of the Russian difficulty may be hoped for soon on the basis of a Conference to be held at London and the withdrawal of the Russian Note." The Sultan is quite ready to assent to such a course—being, it is said, indifferent to the continued neutralisation of the Black Sea; but Austria does not like the proposal of a Conference, though she will be unable to refuse assent if the other Powers concur. It is quite understood that Russia accepts the proposal of Prussia, but it is hardly to be supposed that the offensive Note will be formally withdrawn, though it may be regarded as a dead letter—as indeed negotiations between the signatory Powers would necessarily imply. As all the parties to the Treaty of Paris, unless we except Austria, are favourable to a revision of its provisions, this threatening Eastern difficulty may be considered as substantially ended. There is, however, no probability that the Conference of London will assemble before the close of the war.

The official *Gazette* of Berlin still ventures to predict that peace is not far off, on the assumption, no doubt, that Paris will soon surrender unless relieved from without, and that no such deliverance can be effected. Active operations in the field have now recommenced. The rapid advance of General Manteuffel with part of the Metz forces, 30,000 strong, brought him in front of the French Army of the North, covering Amiens, under its new commander; Bourbaki having been superseded. A battle was fought on Sunday, and was obstinately contested. It did not conclude till nightfall. Both sides suffered a good deal, but the French were decidedly beaten. They, however, fell back in good order, upon an entrenched position close to the city, but on Monday Amiens was abandoned to the German conquerors, who will probably march upon Rouen. This success cuts off the communications between the north of France and the rest of the country, and lays open a rich country to the invaders. The Garibaldians in south-eastern France, after one or two successes, having advanced towards Dijon, have been badly defeated—routed is the German statement—by General Werder. This event, though not of serious consequence to the French cause, will

probably cause little regret among the priest-ridden population with whom Garibaldi has lately been sojourning. The surrender of Thionville, which leaves only two uncaptured fortresses—Bitsche and Phalsburg—in Alsace and Lorraine, and the fall of La Fère, are a further discouragement to the French.

All eyes are now turned to the Loire, where the fate of France will be decided. The German papers confidently expect that the "Red Prince" will be able to repeat the tactics of Sedan, and envelope the whole Army of the Loire in his toils. Great mystery has shrouded the movements on both sides, especially on the part of the French, who outnumber their foes and have made a very formidable entrenched position near Orleans. While the Duke of Mecklenburg has been advanced on Le Mans, the railway junction far away to the west, part of Prince Frederick Charles's army was attacked on Monday by a superior force near Pithiviers. The two accounts of the engagement differ, and both sides claim to have taken prisoners. This is probably only the first of a series of engagements which will test the efficiency of the Army of the Loire. Apparently General Aurelles de Paladine will require a good deal of beating before his large and well-appointed army is entirely vanquished.

The elections for the London School Board took place yesterday in an orderly manner. With one exception the actual result cannot be known till this afternoon. In the City, where the voting was open, the Rev. W. Rogers, Alderman Cotton, Mr. Morley, M.P., and Mr. Gover seem to have been successful. Apparently less than one-half of the various constituencies recorded their votes. In Leeds, Manchester, Sheffield, and Gateshead, the Roman Catholic candidates were able, by the use of the cumulative vote, to head the poll, and in each case the Liberals and Nonconformists occupy a low position. No information of the result of the contest at Birmingham on Monday has as yet been received. At Manchester, as will be seen from an account given elsewhere, the Church party were triumphant. As we anticipated the cumulative vote has proved a great obstacle to a fair expression of public opinion, and has enabled the Roman Catholics to obtain a signal success everywhere. Probably they have secured at least half a dozen seats on the London Board.

General Butler's violent denunciation of the Fisheries Convention has been followed by an untoward event—the seizure on the coast of an American vessel by a British steamer for a violation of the treaty. By such sudden collisions the pacific relations between the United States and England are far more endangered than by the Alabama difficulty. If Earl Granville could settle both these questions together, making reasonable concessions in respect to the fisheries, he would achieve a great diplomatic triumph, and remove the chief obstacles to a cordial co-operation between the two Anglo-Saxon communities.

LIKELY TO BLOW OVER.

APPEARANCES are slightly more favourable. The reply of Prince Gortschakoff to Earl Granville's despatch was laid before the Cabinet on Friday last, and was maturely considered on Monday; after which the noble Foreign Secretary went down to Windsor Castle to read to Her Majesty the answer of her Government to the Russian Chancellor's third diplomatic paper, and to obtain her sanction to its being forwarded to St. Petersburg. At the moment of writing we have seen neither the one document nor the other. It is stated that the Russian despatch is much altered for the better in the tone which pervades it, but that, in substance, it does not withdraw the declaration which Prince Gortschakoff first made to the representatives of Russia in the several Courts of Europe, that she looked upon the Treaty of Paris of 1856 as virtually abrogated. It is rumoured that the answer of Earl Granville still maintains the integrity of that Treaty, and refuses to sanction any recession from it by Russia, without the consent of the co-signatory Powers. It is pretty certain, however, that the despatch has been written in the hope of a pacific solution of the difficulty. Count Bismark, on the part of Prussia, we are informed, has proposed a Conference, to be held in London, for a revision of those stipulations of the Treaty which Russia holds to be needlessly humiliating to herself, and to this proposition it is understood that Russia assents. Whether she has made up her mind to retire the circular note, which assumed her right and intention to be sole judge in her own case, and to set aside as of no further force the joint agreement of 1856, is a point which yet remains uncertain. The

probability seems to be that she will not insist upon achieving in a peremptory and offensive manner what there is every prospect of her obtaining with the friendly concurrence of the other European Powers.

So far, good. It would, unquestionably, be not merely a dire calamity, but a deep disgrace, to the Governments of Europe, if the question in dispute between Russia and the co-signatory Powers should be allowed to issue in a general European war. No doubt, both the Government of Her Majesty and the Press of London, have been animated by earnest desires for peace in the position they so promptly and firmly took up in relation to the high-handed resolution announced by Prince Gortschakoff. The motto "All's well that ends well," like charity, covers a multitude of sins. Still, it cannot but strike cool and dispassionate observers as somewhat singular that Turkey, which is chiefly interested in the object pursued by Russia, does not treat the matter as one of serious concern to herself. The consternation excited by the Prince's boisterous despatch has been chiefly on our side. It would seem as if, in their dread of being thought unwilling, or unable, to go to war, and in their determination to show an undaunted front in response to the rude challenge which the Russian Chancellor had thrown down, our public writers have cast to the wind those doctrines of non-intervention which, of late, have been held to constitute the basis of our foreign policy. Among these we are deeply pained to observe the *Daily News* taking a foremost place. Even so late as yesterday it wrote:—"It must be our duty to uphold the faith of treaties, and enforce the rights of the weak against the incursions of the strong; and it may be necessary in discharge of that duty to resort to the *ultima ratio* of physical force. Our very reluctance to resort to that last argument is only a sign of the tenacity with which we should maintain it." And again, "Lord Granville, of course, in no way lowers the tone of England's determination, nor releases, in any sense, our stern, unbending faithfulness to onerous obligations." And still again, "What England cares for, however, is not the Black Sea, and not even the Bosphorus; it is her own plighted honour, and the faith of a nation's word." Is this, then, the true sense in which we enter into common engagements with other European Powers? Is it true, has it ever been deemed true, that each of the Powers binding itself to the faithful observance of a purpose common to them all, places itself under obligation, at all times, and under all circumstances, to use its force to atone a violation of it by any of the other Powers? Certainly, this is a new doctrine, at any rate, in practice. We are not aware that the undertaking entered into in 1856 was a joint and several undertaking. If Russia, taking advantage of the present impotence of France and preoccupation of Prussia, choose to exhibit her bad faith by renouncing for herself the obligations to which she was committed, Russia thereby exposes herself to the just condemnation of the world. But it surely is a question of expediency, and not of international morality, whether we should risk all that we have in compelling the delinquent to conform to her engagements. Who constituted us the guardian *par excellence* of the sacredness of Treaties? Why are we to step forth, as if we had a divine commission for the purpose, to chastise on every occasion the faithlessness of others to their word? Where are the Treaties of Vienna? What has become of that partition of Europe to which, not less solemnly than to the Treaty of 1856, we pledged our adherence? In this case, confessedly, the substantial end aimed at by Russia, is one which it would be possible, and even graceful, for us to concede—one which Turkey herself, in whose interests the Treaty was exacted, regards as of no great value. Where is the use of framing for ourselves impossible standards of duty, and then attempting to reach them at the expense of everything else that we ought to hold dear? This lofty talk of ours is as hollow as it is dangerous, and may constitute a most mischievous precedent in the future complications of European politics.

If we are to be guided in our conduct, as undoubtedly we ought to be, by our duties, do we owe none, let us ask, to our millions of toiling countrymen? Is there nothing sacred in the obligations due from the Queen's Government to them? What would be the upshot of another war with Russia? A large addition to our already gigantic total of taxation—a withdrawal of large numbers of men from productive labour—a general derangement of our commerce—the probable ruin of our mercantile navy—less employment—less remuneration for it—increased misery in the hovels of the poor—extended pauperism—a check put upon all our schemes of social amelioration and instant retardation, if not retrogression, of political

progress—another generation stunted in its means of education—an indefinite demoralisation of public sentiment—a letting loose of fiend-like passions—and despondency and discouragement for that whole band of self-denying workers who are trying hard to upheave the level of degraded humanity. When we are counselled to pay this vast price in order to coerce Russia to the fulfilment of her treaty obligations, and that, moreover, in a matter of confessedly immaterial moment to us or to the world, is it possible for us, looking upon this duty and upon that, to accept the conclusion that the maintenance of peace sinks into triviality as compared with the maintenance of what is now described as "the sacredness of treaties"? Even reason repudiates the position assumed by our bellicose journalists; but when tested by the spirit of Christianity, the position strikes us as utterly monstrous.

SECRET VOTING ILLUSTRATED.

YESTERDAY, the metropolis was favoured with a practical illustration, on a very extended scale, of the value of secret voting. It was the polling-day for the election from a numerous list of candidates of the persons who will compose the first London School Board. The poll was opened at eight o'clock in the morning, and closed at eight in the evening. The constituencies appealed to were probably the most popular and numerous ever summoned within the metropolitan district to exercise the franchise. The class of candidates ranged higher in social position and in intellectual and moral qualifications than has been usual for a long time past in elections of a municipal character. The interest that has been taken in this preliminary stage of proceedings destined to carry into effect the provisions of the Elementary Education Act, has been of a lively and earnest kind. Candidates have generally thrown all their energies into the contest. Their several meetings with their constituents have been well attended, and, in some cases, have been not only large but animated. The excitement, it is true, has seldom exceeded the bounds of moderation, and cannot justly be compared with that commonly elicited by Parliamentary elections. But, on the whole, the occasion was one which may be accepted as having yielded a very fair exemplification of the effect that may be anticipated from the adoption of secret voting at elections of a more stirring kind.

In the City, the election of members to the London School Board was conducted by open voting—in all the other metropolitan districts by the simplest form of ballot. It is, consequently, a matter of considerable importance to have ascertained by actual experiment how the new mode of voting has operated. In all districts, we believe, it has worked admirably. The utmost order has prevailed. The quiet has been unruffled. There have been no crowds, turbulent or otherwise—no revolting displays of degraded humanity. Men and women have gone to the poll with as little rudeness or bustle to encounter as if they had gone to their several places of worship. "The compartments"—we borrow from a brief description of the process contained in last evening's *Pall Mall Gazette*—"in which the voting-papers are filled in are set so that no one can overlook the writer, and as soon as the paper is filled in it is folded and placed in the ballot-box, which is placed in front of the president of the polling. . . . Everything is very orderly, and there is none of the noise and bustle of a Parliamentary election."

On witnessing this process of collecting the suffrages of the metropolitan constituencies, it is impossible not to ask oneself the question, why have we so long persisted in conducting our Parliamentary elections in a manner calculated to ensure a maximum of tumult, debauchery, demoralisation, and, sometimes, violence. There was nothing un-English in yesterday's proceedings—no skulking, no cowardice, no act tending to wound the self-respect of the most high-minded elector. To see the ballot in actual operation is to see the most thorough collapse of the whole series of stock arguments employed against it. We venture to affirm that London will never again submit to an open-voting election without strong repugnance and deep disgust. One fact is worth more than a score of arguments. In this case, "seeing is believing." The immense superiority of the system adopted yesterday, capable as it is of great improvement in its details, over the system which has been invariably adopted, and passionately defended, until now, disposes of the question in the mind of any reasonable man.

The manner of conducting the School Board elections may be beneficially observed in future Parliamentary elections, in the following respects:—1. In the simple mode of nomination

resorted to. Lord Hartington, we trust, will study this feature of electioneering procedure before re-introducing the Bill which he has in charge. It answers every needful purpose, simply, noiselessly, inexpensively, and efficiently. 2. In throwing the cost of the public machinery requisite for taking the poll upon the rates. It was very striking to observe yesterday the trivial expenditure incurred for all the accommodation required for the taking of votes. 3. In securing the fullest protection for the voters which secrecy can give; and 4. in preventing any publication of the state of the poll until the election is concluded. They all tend more or less either to the quiet working of electoral machinery, or to the discouragement of extravagant disbursements, and hence, of corruption, or to the securing of the result contemplated, namely, accurate knowledge of the wishes of constituents. This pilot election points the way for the still more important contests which will hereafter fill our Town Councils and the House of Commons.

Of the members placed upon the School Board, of course, we can say nothing yet. If the result prove disappointing, it will be due in the main, we think, to the action of the cumulative vote. Our hope is that the Board chosen will be competent to carry out the beneficent purpose for which it has been elected. That there may be some creaking of wheels and heating of bearings at first, is not unlikely; but the work devolving upon the Board will be so vast, so various, and so unspeakably important, that we trust the members of it will soon learn to throw aside their individual and sectarian crochets, and combine with each other in a hearty attempt to secure to every child in this over-crowded metropolis the blessing of a sound and sufficient elementary education.

BLOCKADED PARIS.

THE world outside is getting used to the novelty of the investment of the French capital, which has now lasted some ten weeks. So, indeed, in a certain sense, are those who have been the subjects of this unique discipline. Discipline, we say, because the actual suffering or horrors of a siege have, up to the present time, been little felt in an acute form by the hapless Parisians. But there are many signs that the period of pressure, privation, and mortality has set in for at least the most helpless, and perhaps most numerous portion, of the two millions of souls cooped up in the great city. When the sale of fresh meat has well-nigh ceased, after having been limited to an allowance about equal to a mutton chop every three days; when horse-flesh is, as it were, Government property, to be dealt out in rations; when donkeys' flesh is held to be a great luxury, and cats and rats are openly exposed for sale as articles of diet; and when potatoes are so scarce as to be no longer permitted to be dealt with as private property, it is clear that scarcity, with all its evils, is beginning to affect the vast population immured within the walls of Paris. Health and strength are being undermined by insufficient and unwholesome diet. The mortality of infants and aged people has already increased to a serious extent, and must augment in an alarming ratio.

The question of the capitulation of Paris, is simply a food question. Apparently Count Moltke has made up his mind patiently to await the solution of the terrible problem. He may be in a position to open fire upon the city, though that is a matter of uncertainty—so formidable have become the defences of Paris; so indefatigable is the industry of the Defence Government in creating earth-works and connecting together the detached forts by long lines of entrenchments. If, however, the Germans cannot break in, the defenders of the capital are unable to break out. With an army far more formidable in point of numbers than the investing force, which is spread over a circuit of some fifty miles, General Trochu forbears to incur the terrible risks and slaughter of a sortie in force, unless assured of support from outside. A fortnight ago public fortitude was beginning to succumb, but the news of the success of the Army of the Loire at Coulmiers revived the hopes of deliverance and the resolution to hold out. We know that that prospect is now illusory. Prince Frederick Charles and his veterans interpose between Aurelles de Paladine and the fortifications of Paris. Even if the French general should for some time check the German armies around him, or gain a victory, it is barely possible that the siege of Paris would be raised.

No one can withhold admiration from the beleaguered population of Paris. Their bearing is not what might have been expected from so vain, frivolous, and mercurial a community. If as yet there has been comparatively little of physical suffering, the

circumstances are unfavourable enough to depress the stoutest hearts. The city itself is robbed of its beauty by the stern necessities of war; society is disorganised; industry is paralysed; the comforts of life are lacking; its amusements only pleasant memories. And there is the dreary prospect of continued monotony, growing scarcity, and possible bombardment, till nature can no longer bear the strain, and the beautiful city becomes the prize of the hated foreigner. It may be a necessary and salutary discipline, but it is a fearful ordeal to pass through. The Parisians, by nature gay, excitable, and boastful, deserve our pity for their misfortunes, and our respect and sympathy for the unexpected fortitude, patience, good order, and obedience to authority which they have exhibited. We doubt whether, under similar circumstances, the Berliners would have shown superior courage and endurance.

Probably we are near the beginning of the end of that terrible crisis foretold long ago by Count Bismark, and which prompted Earl Granville to offer his good offices with a view to peace. As week succeeds week the clouds lower over this doomed population; starvation and death present themselves as fearful realities. Those who would counsel their early submission can at least admire the patriotism and resolution which is able undauntedly to face such a terrible prospect. While London is complacently holding its cattle show—the symbol of abundance and good cheer—Paris sees its flocks and herds for the sustenance of a great city absolutely disappearing. "No meat after Christmas;"—such is the burden of the rumours which are wafted from across the ramparts of the invested city. How difficult is it for Englishmen, living in comfort and luxury, to realise all the meaning of this short phrase! Before the lapse of another month it is probable Paris will have surrendered. But the perils of starvation will not have ceased when the capitulation has taken place. For a radius of perhaps fifty miles around the French capital the country is desolate and exhausted of provisions, roads are broken up, and railways destroyed. The German invaders, who find it no easy task to obtain subsistence for their own armies, declare their inability to provide for the famished multitude of Paris when the gates are opened. It is a philanthropic task in which neutral nations might worthily co-operate. England has given generously to relieve the French sick and wounded, and we cannot doubt she would eagerly help to ward off the horrors of starvation from the two millions of Parisian citizens. The great capital of France is perhaps on the eve of surrender, and the means of relief to the population must soon be organised, if it is to be of any great service. A British Fund for that purpose would not, we are confident, lack liberal support. If ample supplies were to be provided, and sent as near as possible to the beleaguered city ready for the emergency, it would be a noble Christmas gift from the English people to the starving Parisians, the remembrance of which would in the future strengthen the ties of friendship between two great nations so long in alliance, and become at least one bright and glorious episode in the ghastly story of a cruel and disastrous war.

THE TRUCK SYSTEM.

THE question has frequently been asked, How comes it that the co-operative store system which, in not a few localities, has proved so beneficial to the interests of the industrial classes, should in others result in ignominious failure, although the conditions in the various districts are apparently the same? Various explanations, all more or less unsatisfactory, have been offered, but the true solution is probably to be found in the revelations daily being made respecting the working of what is termed the truck system in several of the great centres of industrial production. To not a few the significance of the word "truck" must appear an incomprehensible mystery. The word is known to form the name of a species of vehicle drawn by hand, but its use in any other sense is known only to the initiated. These, unfortunately for themselves, constitute no inconsiderable proportion of our industrial population, and to them "Truck" has a deeply significant meaning. To them it is associated with thoughts of slavish bondage, debt, care, and not unfrequently despair. There is something almost grotesque in the expression "Tommy Shop"; it savours more of the burlesque writer's art than of the actual realities of life, yet there are hundreds, nay thousands of working-class families to whom the mention of the name is hateful, to whom it brings sad memories of cruel injustice and bitter oppression. The words which excite the smiles of others, extort from them tears of sorrow and thoughts akin to madness.

Slavery is not yet extinct in England. The manacles and the lash may have disappeared, it may not be legal to barter human beings as if they were mere chattels, but the spirit of slavery yet larks in our midst, and will continue to do so, until men shall learn to be more just unto their neighbours, and to practise the golden principle of doing unto others as they would wish others to do unto themselves. There cannot be two systems more diametrically opposed to each other than those of "Truck" and Co-operation. The former signifies credit in its most objectionable guise; the latter represents cash payments, or the ready-money principle.

To understand the operation of the truck system, it must be remembered that the ordinary workman usually receives his wages weekly, or at short intervals, and that he seldom has any resources save these earnings. If he be a thrifty and prudent man, he may contrive to pay his way, but men of this class are comparatively scarce, although their number has increased since the introduction of co-operative principles has afforded our labouring brethren a practical exemplification of the advantages arising from the exercise of prudence and economy. The bulk of our artisan families have intimate relations with the tally or Tommy shop-keeper. He supplies them, on credit, with any domestic article, from a halfpenny candle to a four-pound loaf, which they may require, and sometimes will even go so far as to provide articles of furniture for domestic use. These have to be paid for out of the weekly earnings, the whole of which are frequently mortgaged before being received in the workman's hands. So long as his name remains on the books of the shopkeeper, the workman dares not make his purchases elsewhere. He may be charged excessively high prices for inferior articles, but there is no remedy, save by breaking the chain of debt, and to accomplish this often requires a degree of thrift and self-denial of which few men are capable. Even if he contrives by dint of energy and perseverance to achieve his object, a few days' sickness may throw him back into his old position, unless, indeed, he be a member of some really solvent friendly association, in which case the door of escape may remain open. One of the first difficulties with which co-operative societies have to contend is the indebtedness of would-be members to the tally-shop keepers. This has led to the formation of funds, in connection with some of the societies, for the extinction of these tally-shop debts, the society replacing the tally-shop keeper, and repaying itself out of the profits due to the member indebted. In this respect, the operation of the co-operative societies has been most beneficial. They have struck a heavy blow at the heavy burden of debt which has so long formed an incubus on the efforts of the labouring classes to improve their social condition.

Objectionable as the tally system is, it is within the power of many thoughtful and prudent artisans to prevent themselves from becoming its victims. They need not necessarily place themselves within the power of the tally-shop keeper. But it is otherwise with the truck system. In this the workman has no choice. It is made a condition of employment that he shall purchase at certain shops in which the employer possesses an interest. If the articles sold were of good quality and moderate in price, there might be something to say in favour of the system, but, unfortunately, experience shows that in very many instances it has been rendered a vehicle of shameless extortion and robbery. The workmen have been plundered right and left in the most cruel manner. Adulterated articles of food have been forced, at most extravagant rates, upon the unwilling customers, who have thus found themselves injured both in pocket and stomach. The evil is not confined to any one particular neighbourhood; it prevails in almost every industrial district; but in some places, especially where the labour performed is of the rudest and cheapest description, its influence is most extensively felt. Many of the employers having recourse to "truck" were originally persons of small capital, who had themselves been working men, and had availed themselves of the system for the purpose of increasing their pecuniary means. Such people are often the harshest and most exacting of employers, the class of masters whose sharp dealings tend to provoke the spirit of irritation which leads the men to resort to the questionable expedients of strikes. But it must not be assumed that these men always remain in a comparatively poor condition. On the contrary, several have acquired great wealth; one man, an employer and Tommy-shop keeper in the Midlands, acquired, not without good reason, the reputation of being a millionaire. But for one individual thus enriched, thousands have been kept in a state of chronic poverty, thus tending to increase the discontent already too largely existing between the two

great sections of the social world. It is a notable fact that in the largest and best-ordered industrial establishments the truck system is unknown, the employed being paid their earnings in cash.

Of course, as is well known, the payment of wages partly in money and partly in kind is illegal; but there is scarcely an Act of Parliament which cannot be broken or evaded with impunity, and the Truck Act of 1831 is no exception to the rule. So long as habits of improvidence exist among our industrial population, "truck" will never become extinguished, however severe the law may be rendered towards transgressors. If it is tacitly understood that, unless a workman purchase his bread at a certain shop, he will not obtain the employment he seeks, how is the employer or the baker to be punished? The workman is not legally compelled to accept the employment sought, nor is the employer bound to accept his services. There is no written or verbal agreement, the conditions are implied only. There is no legal compulsion, however great it may be in a moral sense. This is the difficulty which the Legislature cannot effectually meet. Suppose that the man refuses to pay his baker sixpence for a loaf which he could buy elsewhere for fourpence, and is afterwards dismissed his employment on the plea of his work not being sufficiently good, or for some other alleged fault, how is he to prove that the alleged cause is not the real one, that his actual crime consisted in his refusing to pay an extortionate price to the baker? But this indirectly points out the real source of the evil. The employed are too largely dependent on the employers. Improvidence, ignorance, and recklessness have produced their natural effects, and converted the labourers into mere serfs. With the progress of education, and provident habits, the truck system is doomed. The schoolmaster is the worst foe of the Tommy-shop. But the evil is not to be remedied in a day. Social reforms of an effectual character are generally plants of slow growth. The present danger consists in relying too much upon legislation for a remedy. Legislation may do much, but to be efficient it must be supplemented by outside efforts. The workmen themselves must help as well as their friends. If they would do this, not only the "truck" system, but many others, equally objectionable, would speedily become things of the past.

Foreign and Colonial.

GERMANY.

The North German Parliament was opened on Thursday. The King being absent at Versailles, the Speech from the Throne was read by the President. His Majesty congratulates the Parliament on the unparalleled success of the German arms over the forces of France, and thanks it for the means of carrying on the war it had so freely and liberally supplied. The French people, His Majesty says, must have acquired the conviction, by the destruction of their armies, that they have not the power of coping with the united military forces of Germany, and therefore he should be able to regard peace as certain, were it not that those who now have power in France prefer to sacrifice the forces of a noble nation in a hopeless struggle. The conditions on which Germany would be ready to conclude peace have been publicly discussed; it is necessary that they should be commensurate to the greatness of the sacrifices Germany has made; and it was above all necessary that they should establish a defensible frontier for Germany against the continuance by future Governments of France of the policy of conquest which has been pursued for so many hundred years.

A bill introduced in the North German Parliament authorises an additional war credit to the amount of about sixteen millions sterling. A telegram from Berlin of the 27th says:—"Yesterday a stormy meeting of the Reichstag took place. Herren Ebel and Liebknecht spoke in the most violent terms against the annexation of Alsace and Lorraine. The war loan was finally read a second time against a minority of four." On Monday the credit vote was carried on a third reading by 178 to 8 votes. The noes were Socialists.

A telegram from Karlsruhe states that a military convention was signed on Saturday between the Grand Duchy of Baden and the North German Confederation. The Baden contingent is to be incorporated with the Prussian Army, under the command of the King, and the Baden officers are to keep the rank they at present hold. At Stuttgart there were great popular rejoicings, and flags were displayed in the streets, to celebrate the entry of Wurttemberg into the Confederation.

Under the new German Constitution, just submitted to Parliament, the Federal Council, which forms the Government of the Confederacy, will include fifty-eight votes, only seventeen of which are allotted to Prussia. This and the concession made by Prussia that declarations of war, except in case of attack by a foreign enemy, are to proceed not from herself but from the Federal Council, are regarded as proofs of temperate and pacific policy. Prussia, however, reserves to herself the right of veto in all that regards the army and navy, the tariff and excise.

A committee of English bankers has offered to take up the new German loan.

SPAIN.

A Madrid telegram of the 25th says:—"The President of the Congress, the Minister of Marine, and the Minister of Italy, along with a commission of twenty-eight Deputies, have left for Florence. They will embark on board the Mediterranean squadron at Tarragona. There is no popular enthusiasm here. Tranquillity prevails."

Count de Caste and Senor Calonge, having accepted the amnesty granted by the Government, and taken the oath of allegiance to the Constitution, have been respectively reinstated in their former posts as Captain-General and Lieutenant-General.

AUSTRIA.

The Emperor of Austria on Saturday received the members of the Delegations. In reply to an address from the President, His Majesty said that the importance of political affairs in consequence of which he had called the Delegations together had lost none of its significance; on the contrary, more recent and serious events had occurred. His Majesty hoped that the Delegations would do that which true patriotism and the inseparable interests of both divisions of the Monarchy demanded.

Count Potocki has tendered to the Emperor the resignation of the whole Cis-Leithan Cabinet. His Majesty reserved his decision.

ITALY.

The *Unità Cattolica* of Florence publishes a Papal Encyclical. After giving a detailed account of the vexatious policy which the Italian Government pursued in regard to the temporal power of the Pope, it absolutely declares the firm intention of His Holiness not to consent to any conciliation whatever towards the despoilers of his territory. The Pope will continue constant in his attitude of hostility, and will not consent to give up the inheritance of his predecessors. The Encyclical concludes by pronouncing major excommunications against all dignitaries, councillors, and adherents, who have advised or taken part in the invasion and in the usurpation of control over the Pontifical States.

Many of the Florentine newspapers have been sequestered, by order of the Italian Government, for having published the Papal Encyclical.

Letters from Rome state that it is doubtful whether the Corps Diplomatique at Florence will accompany the King to Rome. Certain ambassadors accredited to the Pope will abstain from such a step. The Municipality of Rome has voted 300,000*l.* for the *fêtes*. It is believed that the Pope will leave Rome should the King come there.

King Victor Emmanuel has received the Ministers of Austria and Prussia who were charged to congratulate His Majesty on the election of the Duke of Aosta to the Spanish Throne. Several personages have been chosen to proceed to Genoa to meet the Spanish deputation. This deputation left Madrid on the 23rd, and will arrive at Genoa on Monday or Tuesday.

The soldiers of the class of 1843 will be dismissed on unlimited furlough from the 1st of December.

The Queen-designate of Spain has given birth to a son. The happy event took place at Turin on Thursday.

The elections have been on the whole favourable to the Government, but the electors showed great apathy. Many second ballots were required. That at Florence was entirely favourable to the Government party. The news as yet received from the provinces states that in many cases similar results have been obtained.

AMERICA.

General Butler has made a speech at Boston, in which he attacked Great Britain, declaring that she had founded the Canadian Dominion to cripple the United States. Upon the Republican party, he said, devolved the duty of securing a settlement of the Alabama claims; and it would be cowardly to wait until England was at war. If reparation was refused, he recommended non-intercourse. The withdrawal of American cotton and breadstuffs would inflict incalculable loss upon England; and America could readily secure other markets for those products. The cession by Great Britain of the naval stations at Jamaica, Nassau, and Bermuda, would be regarded as a fair equivalent. General Butler denounced the course of Great Britain regarding the fishery question as outrageous, and said, if she persisted, the certain result would be war. He alluded to the great temptations of the United States to make war with Great Britain. The United States had a million and a half of sturdy Irishmen eager for war, and the conquest of Canada would follow. As a Republican he declared that war would be sustained by the majority of the Democratic party, and the rule of the Republican party would thereby be perpetuated for generations. The intimate relations between General Butler and the President, and the current rumours that the General will succeed Secretary Fish, have drawn considerable attention to this speech.

The schooner *Friend*, of Gloucester, Massachusetts, has been captured near Charlottetown by the British steamer *Plover*, for violation of the Fishery Laws. The captain and crew are held prisoners. Gloucester is in General Butler's Congressional district.

It appears that, contrary to expectation, the census returns from the Southern States show that, while there has been a decrease in some of these States of the coloured population, in others there has been an increase, so great that, in the aggregate,

the negroes will be found more numerous than they were when the census of 1860 was taken.

NEW ZEALAND.

From New Zealand we learn that the Colonial Assembly had authorised the raising of a loan of half a million, for a term not exceeding four years, to be applied chiefly to public works. The Government would also have at its disposal during the current year 200,000*l.* of the Imperial Guaranteed loan of a million. "The native question," the *Southern Cross* says, "does not create any unusual degree of excitement at the present time."

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

PROPOSED NEUTRALITY OF THE AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.—By telegraphic summary of Australian news furnished by the *Melbourne Argus*, under date of Oct. 11, and forwarded by Brindisi route, we learn that a proposition has emanated from a Royal Commission on Federal Union, appointed by the Governor of this colony, to the effect that an Imperial Act should be obtained enabling any two or more of the Australian colonies to unite for legislative or other purposes on terms to be mutually agreed upon. It is also suggested that the colonies should be placed in a position which would enable them to declare their neutrality in the event of a war between Great Britain and another Power. Never since the Crimean war has the arrival of the various instalments of European news via Suez or California been awaited with such eagerness in Australia, and scarcely any intelligence ever brought to the colony has produced greater excitement than the tidings which arrived by the last mail of the disasters to the French arms, and the advance of the Prussians upon Paris.

THE AUSTRIAN BLUE-BOOK AND THE ROMAN QUESTION.—With respect to the abrogation of the Concordat, a firm conviction is expressed in the *résumé* of the Blue-book, that nevertheless the interests of religion will be amply protected. Government had participated in the wish of all the Powers that disputes between the Kingdom of Italy and the Pope should receive a peaceful solution. The Government deeply deplored the circumstances which, notwithstanding, had brought about a solution by force of arms. The Pope himself did not ask for the assistance of Austria. The Papal Government merely expressed a hope that the Austro-Hungarian Government would disapprove of the invasion of the Papal States. This proposal was declined, because the Austro-Hungarian Government did not consider itself authorised to censure the line of action adopted by a foreign Power in what that Power believed to be obedience to the necessities of the situation, as Austria would thus endanger her own authority and her friendly relations to Italy.

THE BABOO KESHUB CHUNDER SEN ON ENGLISH HOMES.—At the first meeting this gentleman attended after his return from England he gave the following account of what he had seen in this country:—"Whatever the shortcomings and defects of the English nation may be, I have seen in that country a noble and a generous heart in the root of society. Let people traduce the character of that nation who have not had an opportunity to dive beneath the surface of things; but those who have studied English character as it is, must see that there is an amount of generosity and nobility there which cannot fail to excite our sympathy, and interest, and approbation. I do not think there is in any other part of the world such a thing as a sweet English home. Its sweetness, its purity, must command our respect. You see there not merely worldly happiness, temporal matters well managed, daily household duties performed with fidelity and honourable integrity, but you see there the spirit of moral righteousness and purity infused into the daily life, even into the petty details of daily transactions. This domestic life in England—essentially British domestic life in England—is not only sweet but pure; there is not only joy and happiness on the one hand, but there is also a stern and severe moral discipline exercised by the elder members of the family, by parents over children."

PIUS IX.'S SUCCESSOR.—There is (writes our Roman correspondent on the 17th inst.) a strong movement in the Sacred College to secure, on the death of Pius IX., the election of a foreigner to the Pontifical Chair, as it is thought that an Italian Pope would be completely under the control of Italy. The project is got up by the Ultramontane party, in conjunction with the Jesuits, who, in the absence of a prominent character among the existing foreign cardinals, are urging the Holy Father to fill up the vacancies in the Sacred College. The three candidates put forward for nomination are Dr. Manning, Archbishop of Westminster; Monsignor Deschamps, Archbishop of Malines; and Monsignor Ledochowski, Archbishop of Posen; all of whom will be included in the next creation of cardinals. The Italian cardinals, as might be expected, are, as a body, opposed to the movement; and it is doubtful whether Cardinal Antonelli will permit the distribution of the hats if he himself has any views on the tiara. It will, however, require all his subtlety to counteract the intrigues of the Jesuit Fathers Piccirillo and Schrader, who spend some hours with the Pope every day, and have complete possession of his ear. They have installed Monsignor Cardoni in the archives of the Vatican, ousting the Liberal Father Theiner; and you may judge the lengths to which they will go from the fact that since Monsignor Cardoni's appointment, all the papers of the Pontificate of Clement XIV., which seriously compromised the

Jesuits, have disappeared. They have even blocked up the little door on the staircase opening to Father Theiner's apartments, so as to cut him off from the archives, and he can now only enter that repository under difficulties.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

The Queen, Princess Louise, Princess Beatrice, Prince Leopold, and suite, left Balmoral on Wednesday afternoon, and arrived at Windsor Castle shortly before nine o'clock on Thursday morning. At many of the stopping places warm and affectionate demonstrations greeted the Princess Louise, for whose use an invalid's carriage had been fitted up.

The following is the list of the bridesmaids chosen for the marriage of the Princess Louise:—Lady Constance Seymour, daughter of the Marquis of Hertford; Lady Elizabeth Campbell, daughter of the Duke of Argyll; Lady Florence Lennox, daughter of the Duke of Richmond; Lady Mary Butler, daughter of the Marchioness of Ormonde; Lady Alice FitzGerald, daughter of the Marquis of Kildare; Lady Grace Gordon, daughter of the Dowager Marchioness of Huntly; Lady Florence Montagu, daughter of the Earl of Sandwich; and Lady Agatha Russell, daughter of Earl Russell.

A meeting of the Cabinet, fully attended but for the absence of Mr. Fortescue and Mr. Bright, was held on Saturday, and another on Monday. The last council sat only two hours. Subsequently Earl Granville proceeded to Windsor on a visit to the Queen. The health of Princess Louise continues to improve. Upon the return of Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family to Windsor Castle, the royal surgeons made a medical examination of the affected knee of the Princess, when it is understood the inflammation consequent upon the sprain was found to have been considerably allayed, owing to the excellent treatment which had been pursued by her professional advisers.

We are glad to learn that Mr. Bright's health has materially improved since his return to Rochdale. The right hon. gentleman takes several hours of horse exercise daily, and physically is restored to his usual strength. He is able also to give some attention to private and public business, and to carry on the needful correspondence with his department and his colleagues.

It is stated that Her Majesty will avail herself of the very first opportunity which public business will allow Her Majesty to pay a visit to the Empress Eugénie, who remains at Ohlshurst, and has no intention of leaving for Cassel.

H.M.S. *Galatea*, under the command of the Duke of Edinburgh, arrived at Sydney on the 15th Sept., having called at Wellington, New Zealand, on her way from the Cape of Good Hope. His Royal Highness arrived in time to see the Intercolonial Exhibition, and the closing ceremony was performed by him. The *Galatea* on October 11 was expected to sail about the end of October for the South Seas.

The Prince of Wales has returned to Sandringham from his visit to Merton Hall, Thetford.

Mr. Bass, M.P., was entertained at a banquet given by the inhabitants of Derby, and a portrait of himself was presented to him.

It is said that, owing to the opposition of the colonels, Mr. Cardwell has abandoned his scheme for the reorganisation of the yeomanry.

The death is announced of Mr. James Stuar Wortley, who was for some time engaged in diplomacy with Lord Elgin in China, and was subsequently secretary to Mr. Gladstone.

The honour of a Knight Companionship of the Bath is, it is said, to be conferred upon Mr. William George Anderson, of the Audit and Exchequer Department.

The *Licensed Victuallers' Guardian* states that the body which it represents have appointed Mr. Alfred Bates Richards to succeed Mr. James Grant as editor of the *Morning Advertiser*. There were eighty-one candidates.

If no events occur to require its presence abroad, the Channel Squadron will remain at Portland during the winter, making an occasional cruise to sea in divisions to exercise the crews of the ships in heavy gun and other drills.

Mr. Odo Russell had not left Versailles on Saturday, and will probably remain there for some time, as the fact of our having a recognised representative of the Government at the Prussian headquarters is of great advantage to the public service.—*Observer*.

In reply to a communication from the Huntingdonshire Protestant Defence Association, the Duke of Manchester, as a peer, declines to take any action in the matter affecting Lord R. Montagu's position as a member of the House of Commons. At the same time "no one can regret more deeply than His Grace the secession of Lord Robert from the Protestant faith." Lord R. Montagu is the duke's young brother.

Sir Roderick Murchison, Bart., is reported to be lying hopelessly ill.

The *Irish Times* hears on the best authority that the Government contemplate liberating most, if not all, the Irish political prisoners.

The Captain Relief Fund now amounts to about 40,500*l.* A sum of 22,000*l.* is still required to make suitable provision for the widows and orphans of those who perished in that vessel.

In the course of a lecture on Wednesday night at Brighton, Mr. Trevelyan, M.P., stated that next session he should move resolutions to abolish the purchase system, to limit the service of the Commander-in-Chief, to amalgamate and localise the line and militia battalions, and to introduce the ballot for the militia, with a short military service.

THE EDUCATION ACT.

The Right Hon. W. E. Forster, M.P., distributed the prizes on Thursday evening at the Birkbeck Library and Scientific Institution, London. In the course of a long speech he said that not long since mechanics institutions were almost the only means of education in the kingdom. Doubtless there were some persons who thought their mission had ended now that the Education Act had passed; but if they thought these institutions could withdraw from their labours with a good conscience they were miserably mistaken. Passing to points on which he was more immediately interested, he could only say that his hopes had been fulfilled far beyond his sanguine expectations. He did expect that some boroughs would place themselves voluntarily under the Act; but what was the result? The town councils of no less than twenty-six had asked to be placed under it at once; and these were the most important towns in the kingdom, representing a population of two millions and three-quarters. For all these places elections had taken place or were fixed. In addition to this, he might state that almost all the country districts most distant from newspaper influence were trying to understand their educational position. Turning to London he could not congratulate the metropolis on having anticipated the Act, because they must have a school board whether they wished it or not. The work to be done in London was greater than in any other part of the kingdom, from the vast amount of educational destitution, and the misery that prevailed, arising from such an immense multitude of people being congregated together in one mass. Having said this, Mr. Forster next proceeded to touch on the great difficulties which the Government had to face in bringing in their bill. No place in the kingdom presented such difficulties as the metropolis, one of the greatest being in reference to vestries. The right hon. gentleman, among other topics, said he had felt that the suffrage that elected to the education boards should be a wide as well as a strict one; and as they were to have the ballot in London, Lord de Grey and himself determined that it should really be the ballot, and that the voting paper should not be signed under pain of becoming a nullity. Vote by ballot did not apply to the City, which had privileges of its own. With regard to the religious difficulty, he did not believe there would be the quarrel that had been feared, inasmuch as the clause in the Act with regard to the withdrawal of children by their parents would operate upon the school boards; and induce them to see that the clause was not taken advantage of by any large number. He had the fullest confidence in believing that the Bible would be read like any other book, and have the same chance of explanation; and that poor little children would not have their heads crammed with dogmas which their age prevented them from understanding.

The forthcoming number of the *Contemporary Review* contains an article by Mr. Huxley, from which we take the following:—

We are divided into two parties—the advocates of so-called "religious" teaching on the one hand, and those of so-called "secular" teaching on the other. And both parties seem to me to be not only hopelessly wrong, but in such a position that if either succeeded completely, it would discover before many years were over that it had made a great mistake and done serious evil to the cause of education. For, leaving aside the more far-seeing minority on each side, what the "religious" party is crying for is mere theology under the name of religion; while the "Secularists" have unwisely and wrongfully admitted the assumption of their opponents, and demanded the abolition of all "religious" teaching, when they only want to be free of theology. Burning your ship to get rid of the cockroaches! Now, my belief is, that no human being, and no society composed of human beings, ever did, or ever will, come to much, unless their conduct was governed and guided by the love of some ethical ideal. Undoubtedly, your gutter child may be converted by mere intellectual drill into "the subtlest of all the beasts of the field"; but we know what has become of the original of that description, and there is no need to increase the number of those who imitate him successfully without being aided by the rates. And if I was compelled to choose for one of my children between a school in which real religious instruction is given, and one without it, I should prefer the former, even though the child might have to take a good deal of theology with it. Nine-tenths of a dose of bark is mere half-rotten wood: but one swallows it for the sake of the particles of quinine, the beneficial effect of which may be weakened, but is not destroyed, unless in a few cases of exceptionally tender stomachs. Hence, when the great mass of the English people declare that they want to have the children in the elementary schools taught the Bible, and when it is plain from the terms of the Act, the debates in and out of Parliament, and especially the emphatic declaration of the Vice-President of the Council, that it was intended that such Bible-reading should be permitted unless good cause for prohibiting it could be shown, I do not see what reason there is for opposing that wish. Certainly I, individually, could with no shadow of consistency oppose the teaching of the children of other people to do that which my own children are taught to do. And if the reading of the Bible were not, as I think it is, consonant with political reason and justice, and with a desire to act in the spirit of the education measure, I am disposed to think that it might be well still to read that book in the elementary schools. I have always been strongly in favour of secular education, in the sense of education without theology; but I must confess I have been no less strongly perplexed to know by what practical measures the religious feeling, which is the essential basis of conduct, was to be kept up, in the present utterly chaotic state of opinion on these matters, without the use of the Bible.

A short time ago the Tower Hamlets Conservative

Association expressed a wish to nominate Miss Burdett Coutts to a seat in the Metropolitan School Board. Miss Coutts, in reply, says she is convinced that the presence of a lady could only act as a barrier to the discussions of such a body, and that at least for the present the School Board will have to deal more with administrative questions than with those on which a woman's influence and experience could be of most avail. While she would regret to see women elected to the office, Miss Coutts suggests that sub-committees of ladies might be appointed to consider points connected with girls' schools, and to make suggestions as to their management. These, while forming valuable auxiliaries to the Boards, "would relieve ladies from the unsuitable position an election would involve them in." She concludes by expressing her conviction that it would be to the advantage of all if ladies declined to enter into the toilsome and difficult arena of electioneering.

The election of a School Board for Leeds (to consist of fifteen members) took place on Monday, and the result was made known this morning. Thirty-four candidates went to the poll, and the Board is constituted as follows:—Five members of the Church of England, one Church of England clergyman, three Wesleyans, two Roman Catholics, one Independent, one Primitive Methodist, one Free Methodist, and one Unitarian. Mr. Jowitt (the Independent candidate) headed the poll with nearly fifty thousand votes; a Church of England candidate stands second; whilst Sir Andrew Fairbairn (who contested Leeds unsuccessfully at the last general election) polled over 33,000 votes. The lady candidate (Miss Wilson) did not succeed in being returned, having polled only 5,122. The representatives put forward by the working men did not secure much support. The United Liberal Party brought out seven candidates, three of whom were returned. The Church of England party were more successful, and achieved the great victory of carrying in all their five men.

The result of voting for members for the Sheffield School Board was made known last evening. The following are the successful candidates:—M. J. Ellison (Catholic), 17,057; H. Wilson (Churchman), 12,489; C. Wardlaw (Wesleyan), 12,464; W. Cobby (Wesleyan), 11,372; T. Moore (Churchman), 10,823; M. Firth (New Connexion), 10,316; S. Cole (Wesleyan), 10,315; C. Doncaster (Quaker), 9,762; W. Fisher (Unitarian), 9,756; Sir John Brown (Churchman), 9,344; R. W. Holden (Primitive Methodist), 9,303; D. Fairbairn (Wesleyan), 8,310; J. Crossland (Churchman), 7,212; A. Allott (Independent), 6,247; R. T. Eadon (Unitarian), 6,624. The highest number of votes recorded for any working man's candidate was 5,540.

The result of the contest at Birmingham is not yet known. About half the constituency polled.

At Gateshead about one third voted. A Roman Catholic priest headed the poll, a clergyman was second, a Catholic priest third, and the Archdeacon of Durham fourth. Eleven members were elected out of 46 candidates, and the board comprises six Churchmen, two Catholics, one Wesleyan, one Free Methodist, and one Unitarian. Miss Porter, a schoolmistress, was fourteenth on the list. The working-men candidates were nowhere.

In the Tower Hamlets 3,000 voting papers were stolen on the way from the printing-office to the vestry hall of St. George-in-the-East. As soon as the robbery was discovered 31,000 voting papers were destroyed, and 34,000 printed on a different plan, which prevented the possibility of the stolen papers being used.

THE FIRST SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION.

(From the Manchester Examiner and Times.)

After incessant labour, lasting from a few minutes after the close of the poll on Thursday afternoon till one o'clock on Friday morning, the 390,000 and some odd thousand votes cast in the election of the first School Board for Manchester were roughly analysed and tabulated. Shortly after twelve o'clock, the Mayor made the declaration of the poll, which was as follows:—

Rev. Canon Toole, St. Wilfrid's, Hulme, clergyman	54,560
George Richardson, 2, Encombe-place, Salford, solicitor	36,308
William Birch, jun., Old Trafford, merchant	35,416
Herbert Birley, Spring Bank, Pendleton	34,026
William Romaine Callender, jun., Victoria Park, Manchester, merchant	31,824
Robert Gladstone, Kersal, Manchester	24,237
Joseph Lamb, Polygon, Ardwick, Alderman	22,987
Thomas Dale, Barnes Green, builder and contractor	20,688
Lydia E. Becker, 10, Grove-street, Ardwick, lady	15,249
Richard Hawarth, Didsbury, merchant	13,137
Rev. William M'Kerrow, D.D., Bowdon, Presbyterian minister	9,919
Robert Rumney, Springfield, Whalley Range	9,510
Dr. John Watts, Whitmore House, Old Trafford	8,861
John Cooper, Tetlow Grove House, solicitor	8,020
Oliver Heywood, Claremont, Pendleton, banker	7,902

[A list of the unsuccessful candidates and the votes given to them then follows.]

We may now allow ourselves the pleasure of making a personal inspection of the fortunate fifteen. At the top of the list, by a very long way, stand a Roman Catholic divine and a Roman Catholic lawyer. We are quite sure that no two better men could be found within the pale of the communion to which

they belong, and that the interests of their Church will be protected on the School Board with equal intelligence and zeal. The next name is that of a philanthropic pietist, whose good deeds, though not done in secret, are rewarded openly. Mr. Birch, as the conductor of an orphanage puts his trust in God, but as a candidate he keeps his powder dry. He and his friends were indefatigable in their canvass, and we welcome his election to the Board as a guarantee on the side of good-heartedness. Then follow five gentlemen in whom the Church in its political militancy stands embodied. They form a compact and massive group, and will take good care that the operations of the School Board are kept well within the limits prescribed by the interests of Anglicanism. With ten thousand women on the citizen roll, Miss Becker was sure to be returned, and we heartily welcome her to a position which she is in all respects so competent to fill. Mr. Haworth represents Wesleyan Methodism on its Conservative side; Mr. Cooper, who figures last but one on the list, represents the same institution in its more Liberal tendencies. Dr. M'Kerrow and Mr. Rumney were put in nomination by the Education League, Dr. Watts and Mr. Oliver Heywood by the Education Bill Committee, while all four were on the list recommended on the eve of the poll to the support of the friends of unsectarian education. Their efforts on behalf of popular education have been before the public for the last twenty years, and if veterans in a long campaign could always count upon the laurels due to them in the hour of victory, their names would have occupied a very different position on the poll.

From the elected we turn to the electors, and the first fact which challenges our attention is the comparatively small number of persons who took part in the election. The citizens' roll contains upwards of 60,000 names, while only 26,513, or rather more than two-fifths, took the trouble to vote. The mass of intellectual apathy which this circumstance brings to light is a good proof of the necessity of education, and the proof becomes all the more startling when we consider how large a proportion of those who went to the poll would, in all probability, have stood aloof if the lack of educational zeal had not in their case been plentifully supplied by motives hardly higher or purer than partisanship. The next fact which presents itself on the face of the returns is the remarkable effect of the cumulative vote. The Rev. Canon Toole heads the list with 54,560 votes, 20,000 more than those given to Mr. Birley, the first of the Anglican five. Mr. Richardson, the second Roman Catholic candidate, stands next to Canon Toole, with more than 36,000 votes. These large totals impose upon the imagination, till we remember that the Roman Catholics cumulated the whole of their fifteen votes on their two candidates, and that the actual number of voters was only 6,000. The aggregate number of votes given to the five representatives of the Church of England was 133,762, equal in voting power to nearly 9,000 voters. The relative strength of the Church of England and the Roman Catholic stands, therefore, as nine to six—the former carrying five candidates, and the latter only two. The sudden fall from the 20,688 votes recorded for Mr. Dale, the lowest on the Anglican list, to 9,919 recorded for Dr. M'Kerrow, the highest on the unsectarian list, is a fact to which we are anxious to give all possible prominence, since it is so ominously adverse to the cause with which our sympathies are identified. The aggregate number of votes given for Dr. M'Kerrow, Mr. Rumney, Dr. Watts, and Mr. Oliver Heywood is only 35,652, representing about 2,300 voters. It is true we have the votes distributed over the long list of unsuccessful candidates, but we cannot claim more than 20,000 among this scattering, or some 1,300 voters, for the party in question. This analysis more than justifies the apprehensions we expressed a few days ago. It is clear that, in default of better organisation among the friends of unsectarian education, the School Board is placed irrecoverably in the hands of two powerful religious denominations. After reviewing the figures, we are bound to be thankful for the small mercies vouchsafed to us, and to what our gratitude vouches for the consideration that if the sectarians had known their strength, they might, but for Miss Becker and Mr. Birch, have swept the field. The Church of England might have put forward eight instead of five, and the Roman Catholics six instead of two, and each might have had a larger number of votes than Mr. Haworth, and a *fortiori* all below him; in other words, the Church of England and the Roman Catholics might between them have had six more places on the board, and removed the unsuccessful Mr. Phythian a step lower down. It is not pleasant to frighten our friends, but it is our business to tell them the truth. That, at all events, is a piece of service which we do not choose to abandon to our opponents. . . . The position on the poll of Messrs. Austin and M'Leod, the working class candidates, is one of the most suggestive features of the contest. How many tens of thousand of working men are there in Manchester? Well, whatever the number may be, we find that the two candidates who were put forward as an honourable protest against class exclusiveness, and with a special regard to the supposed sympathies of the working classes, are among the lowest on the list. Mr. Austin received 3,854 votes, equivalent to 250 voters; Mr. M'Leod received 1,644 votes, equivalent to 109 voters. We ought probably to place this fact in juxtaposition with one to which we have already referred, viz, the intellectual apathy displayed by three-fifths of the citizens in not taking the trouble to vote at all. The broad inferences to be drawn from the facts we have passed under review are obvious. Sectarian

organisation has carried the elections, and it is clear that by means of the cumulative vote two denominations are perfectly able to return all, or nearly all, the members of the Board. Thus the issue is not between sectarianism and unsectarianism alone, but between the two most numerous sects and all the smaller sects into which we are ecclesiastically divided. The Wesleyans probably stand third in point of numerical strength, and they have managed to return their two candidates, but they could not prevail against the two dominant sects if the latter chose to put forth their strength. The Church of England elects to identify itself with the most exclusive Toryism. The right to be called a Churchman is almost refused to every member of the Establishment who is not prepared to sympathise with Orangeism. The clergy, for the most part, are ready to lend their zealous co-operation to these narrowest of partisans. They set their young ladies to work, and a political agency of the most effective sort is put into full activity at a moment's notice. Liberal members of the Church, men like Mr. Christie, Mr. Oliver Heywood, and Mr. Murray Gladstone, are treated like so many heathens, and allowed no part or voice in the matter. To counteract this sectarian mechanism, which is ever ready to be set in motion, Liberalism, whether in religion or politics, has no analogous organisation. Reason requires time before it can cope with mere force, and this is an element which has been overlooked in an overweening reliance on a spirit of fairness and moderation which our opponents, to do them justice, do not pretend to exercise.

THE OPIUM TRAFFIC.

BY THE REV. GRIFFITH JOHNS, OF HANKOW.

I.

The arrogant assumption of the Chinese Government never appeared so offensive as on the arrival of Lord Napier, in 1834, as Chief Superintendent of British trade in China. No sooner did the Governor hear of his arrival, than he ordered the native hong-merchants to proceed to Macao, and request his lordship to remain there until he should receive the legal permission to come to Canton. His lordship, however, proceeded up the river at once, and, according to his instructions, announced his arrival by a letter to the Viceroy. The Governor was highly indignant, and wrote to the hong-merchants to this effect:—"On this occasion the barbarian eye, Lord Napier, without having at all resided at Macao to wait for orders, nor has he requested or received a permit from the Superintendent of Customs, but has hastily come up to Canton; a great infringement of the established laws. . . . As to his object in coming to Canton, it is for commercial business. The petty affairs of commerce are to be directed by the merchants themselves; the officers have nothing to hear on the subject. . . . The Great Ministers of the Celestial Empire are not permitted to have intercourse by letters with outside barbarians. If the said barbarian eye throws in private letters, I, the Governor, will not receive or look at them. With regard to the foreign factory of the company, without the walls of the city, it is a place of temporary residence for foreigners coming to Canton to trade; they are permitted to eat, sleep, buy, and sell in the factories; they are not allowed to go out to ramble about." Lord Napier had been instructed not to treat with the authorities through the hong-merchants as heretofore, so that when they waited upon him, on the morning of his arrival, he "courteously dismissed them with an intimation that he would communicate immediately with the Viceroy in a manner befitting His Majesty's commission, and the honour of the British nation." Such was the determination of his lordship. Unfortunately for him, the Governor was equally determined that the barbarian eye should not communicate with the officers of the Empire through any other than the authorised and long-established medium of the hong-merchants. His lordship's letter was taken back, all the officers having refused to touch it. They shunned it as they would have shunned a viper. The following report, presented to the Emperor by the Governor, gives us a fair insight into the animus of the Government at the time. "The said barbarian eye," observes the Viceroy, "would not receive the hong-merchants, but afterwards repaired to the outside of the city to present a letter to me, your Majesty's Minister, Su. On the face of the envelope the forms and style of equality were used, and there absurdly written the characters *Tay-ing-Kwo* (Great English nation.) Now it is plain, on the least reflection, that, in keeping the central and outside people apart, it is of the highest importance to maintain dignity and sovereignty. Whether the said barbarian eye has or has not official rank, there are no means of thoroughly ascertaining. But though he be really an officer of the said nation, he cannot write letters of equality with the frontier officers of the Celestial Empire. . . . Accordingly, orders were given to the Colonel in command of the military forces in the department, to tell him authoritatively

that, by the statutes and enactments of the Celestial Empire, there has never been intercourse by letters with outside barbarians; that, respecting commercial matters, petitions must be made through the medium of the hong-merchants, and that it is not permitted to offer or present letters. On humble examination, it appears that the commerce of the English barbarians has hitherto been managed by hong-merchants and *taipans* (supercargoes); there never has been a barbarian eye to form a precedent. Now, it is desired to form an officer, a superintendent, which is not in accordance with old regulations."

Finding Lord Napier unyielding, the Governor, in order to bend his stubborn will, and cause him to retire to Macao, stopped the English trade. Two days after, he issued a proclamation denouncing his lordship's conduct in coming to Canton without previously reporting himself and obtaining permission. Having praised the native hong-merchants for requesting that a stop should be put to the English trade, because the barbarian eye would not adhere to the old regulations, he adds, "Lord Napier's perverse opposition necessarily demands such a mode of procedure, and it would be most right immediately to put a stop to buying and selling. But, considering that the said nation's King has hitherto been in the highest degree reverentially obedient, he cannot, in sending Lord Napier at this time, have desired him thus obstinately to resist. The some hundreds of thousands of commercial duties yearly coming from the said country concerns not the Celestial Empire the extent of a hair or a feather's down. The possession or absence of them is utterly unimportant, and of no regard. But the tea, the rhubarb, the raw silk of the Inner Land, are the sources by which the said nation's people live and maintain life. For the fault of one man, Lord Napier, must the livelihood of the whole nation be precipitately cut off. I, the Governor, looking up and embodying the Emperor's most sacred, most divine wish, to nurse and tenderly cherish as one all that are without, feel that I cannot bring my mind to bear it."

This balderdash, which sounds so ridiculous to our ears, is to the Chinese no other than plain common-sense. The Governor was as earnest and sincere as Lord Napier, and the contest between them was sharp and decisive. Chinese arrogance and exclusiveness asserted themselves in words and acts which could not be mistaken. Not only was the trade stopped, but his lordship was treated with the greatest indignity. The Governor never dreamed of looking upon him as the honourable representative of a great country. In his eyes, he was simply an arrogant barbarian, a rude, ignorant upstart. He ordered soldiers to beset his residence, drove away all his native servants, and cut off the supply of provisions. The close confinement, the heat, and the anxiety began at last to tell seriously on his lordship's health, and he was compelled to quit Canton and retire to Macao, till reference to Government could be made. Having to embark in a passage boat, he was thrown on the tender mercies of his implacable foe. On the journey he suffered intensely from long delay and petty annoyances of all kinds, which greatly aggravated his complaint. In a fortnight after he reached Macao, and only three months after his arrival in China, this excellent man and faithful servant died, a victim to the barbarity of the Chinese, and a martyr to the cause of progress in the East.

As soon as Lord Napier had retired from Canton, the trade was reopened. The Emperor was exceedingly pleased with the Governor's victory over his lordship, and he issued an edict stating that the "English barbarians have an open market in the Inner Land, but there has hitherto been no interchange of official communications. Yet," he adds, "it is absolutely requisite that there should be a person possessing control, to have the special direction of affairs. Wherefore let the Governor immediately order the hong-merchants to command the said separate merchants that they send a letter back to their country calling for the appointment of another person as *tai-pan* (supercargo), to come for the control and direction of commercial affairs, in accordance with old regulations."

Three years after this Captain Elliot wrote a letter to the Governor of Canton, informing him of the recovery from shipwreck of seventeen Chinese by an English vessel, and expressing a hope, that peace and goodwill might continue between the two nations. The Governor would not condescend to send him a direct reply; but, addressing the hong-merchants, he desired them to convey to Captain Elliot his directions to conform to a more respectful mode of writing; not to omit the words Celestial Empire, nor to puff himself up with the idea that any bonds of peace and goodwill can exist between the Great Emperor and the petty English nation; and to submit his con-

munications to the hong-merchants, that they might judge whether they were sufficiently respectful or not.

Such were the Chinese in sentiment and action before the war. England was regarded as a tributary State, and it was deemed a matter of vital importance to make her feel her position. The Emperor and his Ministers were determined to resist with all their might every attempt at establishing friendly relations and equitable intercourse with the outside nations, and to uphold to the last their arrogant assumption of supremacy over the monarchs and peoples of all other countries under heaven. Their doctrine was (and, I may add, is) that just as there are no two suns in the heavens, so there can be no two Emperors upon earth. Père Premare, in the following translation of one of their maxims, gives us the principle which has guided the Chinese in their intercourse with foreigners from time immemorial:—"The barbarians are like beasts, and not to be ruled on the same principle as the Chinese. Were any one to attempt to control them by the great laws of reason, it would lead to nothing but confusion. The ancient Kings understood this well, and therefore ruled barbarians by *misrule*. Hence to rule barbarians by *misrule* is the true and best way of ruling them." Now, it is quite clear that no beneficial results could possibly accrue from arguing with a people who could think, feel, speak, write, and act in this way. Whilst their extravagant pretensions remained unrepelled, all overtures on the part of a foreign Government would be repelled with disdain. But no great Power could possibly submit long to such insults and humiliations, and, hence, war, apart altogether from the opium traffic, was simply inevitable. Nothing else could have demolished the conceit, supremacy, and isolation in which the Chinese had immured themselves for so many ages. Two opinions can hardly exist on this subject among those who are acquainted with the character and history of the Chinese.

Nevertheless, this war will always be regarded, and justly regarded, as an opium war. In spite of the earnest and sincere efforts of the Chinese Government to put an end to the nefarious traffic, the East India Company did everything in their power to foster it. The English Government never did aught to discourage the cultivation of the poppy in India, or to check the contraband trade in China. When the Superintendent of Trade was appealed to, the Chinese were quietly told that the trade did not come under his cognisance, and that his Sovereign was not supposed to know anything about it. "Whenever," writes the Chief Superintendent of Trade, in 1836, "His Majesty's Government directs us to prevent British vessels engaging in the traffic, we can enforce any order to that effect, but a more certain method would be to prohibit the growth of the poppy, and the manufacture of opium in British India." His Majesty's Government, however, did not think it expedient to do the one thing or the other. The rapid growth of smuggling on the Canton river, and the endless complications to which the illicit trade was giving rise, induced Captain Elliot to bring the whole matter before the Home Government, and to suggest the desirableness of opening communication with the Court. Lord Palmerston replied "that Her Majesty's Government do not see their way in such a measure with sufficient clearness to justify them in adopting it at the present moment," and added that no protection can be afforded to "enable British subjects to violate the laws of the country to which they trade. Any loss, therefore, which such persons may suffer in consequence of the more effectual execution of the Chinese laws on this subject, must be borne by the parties who have brought that loss on themselves by their own acts." Thus the evil was fairly brought before the notice of the British Government by its representatives in China; but no notice was taken of it, and nothing was done to suppress it, or even to control and mitigate it. A sound principle was enunciated by Lord Palmerston, but the moment it was called into play, the British Government violated it in the grossest and most flagrant manner. The Chinese had a right, according to Lord Palmerston, to seize and destroy the opium. True, Lin, in attempting to get the drug into his possession, adopted measures that were unjustifiable in themselves. The indiscriminate imprisonment of the foreign residents, and his outrageous conduct towards Captain Elliot, were wholly wrong. Still it must be confessed that it was his weakness and ignorance that caused him to commit these blunders. There is not a particle of evidence to show that he aimed at anything more in all he did than to get the opium delivered into his hands. It has been supposed that he was meditating evil against the life of Dent, one of the principal opium-dealers at Canton. But for

this there is not a particle of proof. On the contrary, it appears almost certain that he only wished to detain him as an hostage until the noxious drug was handed over. Being one of the principal traders in opium, and the only one remaining of the thirteen merchants who had been requested to leave the country as opium-dealers, he was particularly obnoxious to the Chinese Government. When Captain Elliot, on his arrival at Canton from Macao, took Dent under his protection, Lin doubtless fancied that his aim was to abscond with the merchant, and to keep the opium; and hence he became furious, and directed his wrath against the Superintendent of Trade. His subsequent conduct shows that he had but one object in view, namely, the delivery of the opium and the extinction of the illicit trade.

It must be remembered that the penalty awarded to smugglers was death, and that Lord Palmerston had declared that "no protection can be afforded to enable British subjects to violate the laws of the country to which they trade." When, however, Captain Elliot required the surrender of all the opium, he stated that, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, he held himself in the most full and unreserved manner responsible to each and all of the merchants, and after it had been handed over to the Chinese, he recommended, in a despatch to Government, "an immediate and strong declaration to exact complete indemnity for all manner of loss." All this sounds strange after the declaration that "any loss which such persons may suffer in consequence of the more effectual execution of the Chinese laws on this subject must be borne by the parties who have brought the loss on themselves by their own act." But Her Majesty's Government decided that the pledge given by Captain Elliot to the opium merchants, being beyond his power, could not, with any just regard to the public interest, be redeemed; and Lord John Russell stated, on the 19th March, 1840, that hostile preparations were making, in order to obtain indemnity for the losses sustained by the merchants under threatened violence. Thus, this war sprang immediately out of the opium trade, and was waged with the view of recovering the losses sustained by the merchants by the destruction of the contraband commodity. The indignities heaped upon Lord Napier were greater than those which Captain Elliot endured, and yet there had been no appeal to arms in his case. There can be little doubt that there would have been no appeal in the latter case either, if the opium had not been seized. Though Captain Elliot had exceeded his powers in giving the pledge which he did to the merchants, yet, being the authorised agent of the Crown, the British Government was responsible for his acts. Great Britain, however, whilst acknowledging the obligation, thought it the most economical plan to force China to make good the losses—and hence this war.

England had a fine opportunity of acting a noble and disinterested part in the crisis, and of making the war assume quite another aspect. Whilst repelling the lofty pretensions of the Chinese, rebuking the pride and arrogance of the Government, insisting upon friendly and equal intercourse, and demanding reparation for all other losses and damages, she might have told the Emperor of China that no indemnity would be asked for the smuggled opium which had been destroyed, and promised to render him every assistance to suppress the traffic, or, at least, to prevent British subjects engaging in it. Such an act would have commanded the admiration of the civilised world, and won the confidence and respect of the greatest of Pagan nations. The Chinese would have been compelled to respect the sincerity, uprightness, and generosity, as well as the power of the great English nation, and the war would be looked back upon to the end of time with almost unmingled satisfaction. It was the time to make as well as demand concessions and reparations. If we had much reason to complain of the superciliousness and arrogance of the Chinese, we ought not to have forgotten that they, too, had their serious grievances, and that if we had conducted ourselves more like unto civilised beings, their conduct towards us might have been different. The opium traffic itself, for which England was principally responsible, was a terrible curse inflicted upon the nation. "While," said Captain Elliot on one occasion, "such a traffic existed in the heart of our regular commerce, I had all along felt that the Chinese Government had just ground for harsh measures towards the lawful trade, upon the plea that there was no distinguishing between the right and the wrong." A witness examined in May, 1840, declared, "We never paid any attention to any law in China that I recollect." England, however, was not prepared to extend this consideration to China, and the consequence is, that the opium war is, and ever will remain, a dark spot, nay, one of the darkest spots, on our national character. The

conversation which took place between Sir Henry Pottinger and the Chinese Commissioners, is very instructive on this point. Sir Henry wished to refer to "the great cause that produced the disturbances which led to the war, viz., the trade in opium." They declined to enter on the subject till assured that the conversation was intended to be strictly private. Being assured of this, they eagerly requested to know why "we would not act fairly towards them by prohibiting the growth of the poppy in our dominions, and thus effectually stop a traffic so pernicious to the human race." Sir Henry having told them that it could not be done in consistency with our constitutional law, and that such a step would only throw the market into other hands, he observed:—"It, in fact, rests with yourselves. If your people are virtuous they will desist from the evil practice; and if your officers are incorruptible and obey your orders, no opium can enter your country. The discouragement of the growth of the poppy in our territories rests principally with you; for nearly the entire produce cultivated in India travels east to China. If, however, the habit has become a confirmed vice, and you feel that your power is at present inadequate to stay its indulgence, you may rest assured your people will procure the drug in spite of every enactment. Would it not, therefore, be better at once to legalise its importation, and by thus securing the co-operation of the rich and of your authorities, from whom it would thus be no longer debarred, thereby greatly limit the facilities which now exist for smuggling?" He then casually mentioned instances of Governments having failed to attain their ends by endeavouring to exclude any particular object of popular desire. Tobacco was one of those he alluded to, and now that it was legalised not only did it produce a large revenue to the Crown, but it was more moderately indulged in Britain than elsewhere. The commissioners expressed themselves persuaded that their master would never listen to a word upon the subject. And they were right; for it was after this conversation, and after having been thoroughly humbled and vanquished, that Tau-Kwang uttered the following memorable words: "It is true, I cannot prevent the introduction of the flowing poison,—gain-seeking and corrupt men will, for profit and sensuality, defeat my wishes; but nothing will induce me to derive a revenue from the vice and misery of my people." In reading the above we feel instinctively that the heathen monarch stood on a higher moral platform, and was actuated by a nobler religious principle, than the Christian plenipotentiary. Sir Henry's argument reminds us of that of the low publican, who attempts to justify his conduct in supplying the confirmed drunkard with intoxicating liquors in spite of the earnest remonstrances and bitter tears of wife and children on the plea that the man will drink; that if he does not supply him with the article, others will; and that the stopping of the supply rests entirely with themselves, for if they could only make him a virtuous man, and prevail upon him to sign the total abstinence pledge, not a drop would ever find its way down his throat. His words must have sounded harsh and heartless in the ears of those high functionaries; and his remarks on tobacco, indicating, as it would seem to them, that he put the weed and the opium in the same category, must have appeared very sophistical.

Taking all things into consideration, we need not wonder that the Chinese at the close of that terrible contest felt that the English victory was only another instance of might triumphing over right, of brute force trampling moral principle under foot. It left on the national mind a deep impression of the prowess and physical resources of the English, but it only strengthened it in its preconceived notions of the moral supremacy and higher civilisation of the Chinese. It created fear and dread, but failed to excite the faintest sense of reverence, or even respect.

THE BISHOP OF MANCHESTER ON WOMAN'S RIGHTS.—The Bishop of Manchester presided on Thursday at the first annual meeting of the Manchester Society for Promoting the Higher Education of Women. His lordship energetically denounced the Women's Rights movement. He was quite ready to welcome a sounder education for women, with higher culture and larger range; but he could not regard with satisfaction the attempt that was being made to thrust women upon domains not belonging to them—such as politics and medicine. In State affairs women would probably make a mess of it. A mixed class of male and female students from eighteen to twenty-five years of age studying anatomy together was not an edifying spectacle in the midst of modern civilisation. They wanted to lift women from frivolity, but not to make them fast. They desired to enrich their characters that they might have influence in redeeming young men from dissipation. But the fast woman was more decidedly odious than the frivolous one.

Literature.

A HIGH-CHURCH HEGELIAN.*

It is rather an unfortunate circumstance for Mr. Baring-Gould that he published his two volumes separately and at a considerable interval. Their chief value lies in the systematic endeavour to view Christianity purely from the historic side, and so to find a ground of justification for "Catholic" dogma; and it is clear that when viewed in a fragmentary way, much would be open to misconception in such a work. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that Mr. Baring-Gould should have been dubbed "materialist," "rationalist," and "infidel," as he tells us frankly in his preface to the second volume that he has been. A writer who sets out with acknowledgments of direct indebtedness to both right and left of the Hegelian school; who boldly advertises that to Feuerbach he is indebted for shedding a torchlight on the essential idea of Christianity, whilst he was wandering bewildered amid multifarious inquiries; and who, at the same time, has no scruple in declaring that "the Anglican Church, instead of training 'the nobler faculties, has anathematised them 'and bid them be cast out as unclean,' may well expect to be belaboured with the cudgels of bad names, if he receives notice at all, in certain quarters. Perhaps Mr. Baring-Gould is well content it should be so; from the tone in which he writes we should guess that he is. He thus disarms adverse criticism of that kind in the most effective way, and in this shows himself wise.

In the first volume Mr. Baring-Gould was only, in technical phrase, "leading up" to his main positions, which we find specifically exhibited in the forefront of the second one, in the chapters on "The Universal Antinomy," and "The Conciliation of Antinomies," in which there is a great deal of thought, felicity and force of expression, no less than aptitude in making speculative thought support special theological positions. The chief doctrine on which Mr. Baring-Gould builds is this, that religion is as much matter of sentiment as of intellect. Abstract thinkers, he holds, tend to seek out for themselves an abstract impersonal God; but the great mass of men through their sentiments, seek and need, as they need food and drink, a personal and so far human God. Antinomy reigns and rules everywhere. Every proposition is a negative, implying its positive and not excluding it; the mass of philosophers prior to Hegel having mistakenly kept labouring to establish the false doctrine of exclusion of contradictories with due result on the formation of Christian dogma. Out of this principle, developed with much strictness and large reach of reading, Mr. Baring-Gould draws his justification of true Catholicism, which is, of course, very far from Roman; and yet he acknowledges the worth and the necessity of a great deal in the Roman system.

Mr. Baring-Gould very acutely reasons out the position that "man also is an antinomy." He represents Being under the two contradictory terms which constitute him; 1st, that "which is indefinite and undetermined, which is 'called spirit'; 2nd, that which is determined and definite, which is vulgarly called body," and in philosophical language limit. "Though these two words signify opposition, 'we might almost say contradiction, it by no means follows that they exclude each other.' On the contrary, if the undetermined, the 'spirit, was always unlimited, without formulae to define and determine, it would know 'nothing, it would be incapable of knowing 'anything. These terms, apparently opposed and contradictory, imply one another, and 'unite in a simple term which, giving to the 'undetermined a form which defines and limits, 'constitutes the conception, the idea.'

Far from endorsing the epithets of rationalist and infidel, we should say that Mr. Baring-Gould's manner of working out and applying this idea, makes him over-ready in believing. He weakens his position by a plethora of dogma. As every phase of religion exhibits a want of man's heart, so he would co-ordinate every need with a dogma which ought still to have place in a genuinely Catholic Christianity. This is an important point, and we will therefore quote his own words:—

"Every religion is the expression of a want of man's spiritual nature, however uncouth or exaggerated may be the form it assumes. This uncouthness or exaggeration is due to negation of correlative wants. The want itself is the strain after truth, the hunger of the spiritual nature. The incarnation assumes to satisfy every one of these wants, and therefore must become a web, of which all philosophies are the warp and all religions are

the woof." "Idolatry then is the outward expression of the belief in a personal God. The formation of the idea of a personal God is, and must be, the making of an image, though not necessarily a graven image. Idolatry exists in three forms—1. Fetishism; 2. Symbolism; 3. Ideolatry. . . . When a man makes a fetish he acts on the supposition that in the spiritual world the mode of operation is analogous to that experimentally known in the material world. He seeks a centre for spiritual essence, towards which he can direct his worship and to which he can nail his wandering thoughts. In a word he follows a natural impulse. The principle on which he argues is just, but the manner of expression may be false and ludicrous as when the negro concentrates his in a bundle of tatters."

And fetishism, according to Mr. Baring-Gould, is inseparable from the purest religions, though there may be a alongside of it development of Symbolism.

"That which is truly Catholic" he holds, "is not the profession of one doctrine to the exclusion of other doctrines, but is the co-ordination of all ideas, of all possible doctrines, maintained invariably undivided in the infinite conception of Christ, which includes all without excluding any, and adopts all into an unity which forms of them a homogenous and complete whole. Outside Catholic unity there can be only negation and exclusion which, breaking the bond of this spiritual community particularises that which Catholicism had universalised."

Pantheism and Deism are even affirmed to be reconciled by meeting in Christ; for each is a positive conclusion, and in Christ all positive conclusions find their focus. In the fundamental antinomy of man's nature Mr. Baring-Gould finds the ground of the dogmas of the Real Presence, and the worship of the Virgin. On this latter he says:—

"The relative positions occupied by the male and female ideals in a religious system is an index of the hold that system has upon the thinking or the feeling portions of the community. Where there is no female ideal, as in Mahomedanism, woman is of no account. Where, as in modern Romanism, that ideal is supreme, men are conspicuously absent from the churches. Each ideal is necessary, and each has its place. To woman, the male type of perfection is requisite to give her nerve and judgment, and to man the ideal of female excellence is necessary to give refinement and delicacy. The softest spot in man's heart is the love of his mother; religion claims that spot on which to build a sanctuary, and if man may not look up to and address a mother in heaven, his filial love will maternalise and deify nature. If man requires a great Exemplar, so does woman require one too. A religious system which would provide man with a model, and leave woman destitute of one, is imperfect, and inadequate to supply the wants of human nature. Modern Roman Mariolatry is a religious development in obedience to law. Primitive Christianity was distinctly an intellectual movement (?), and was therefore a religion for thinking men. Mediaeval Christianity refused scope to reason in religion; it therefore shifted the basis of the Catholic system to sentiment. Man, as a rational rather than a sentimental being, has therefore steadily disengaged himself from Catholicism; woman, the creature of feeling, clings to it; and as Catholicism becomes more and more a religion of females, the female ideal necessarily assumes advancing prominence."

In various ways the sexual elements or distinctions have had such vogue in religions that facts on facts might easily be brought forward and ranged so as to weaken the apparent strength of Mr. Baring-Gould's antinomy. Protestantism, on this ground, is a protest against extravagances which, on the practical side, were the parents of terrible social vices.

Thus we have a very eclectic, but, we hold, a spurious Catholicity. If we are to collate facts from all the religions of Heathendom to aid us to establish ground for Catholic dogma, we may very soon carry the experiment too far, and annihilate dogma by the perverse mixture of its foundation. One part must speedily disintegrate the other to the detriment of all that is supported.

The vital defect of Mr. Baring-Gould's scheme is that it is a mere speculation. History has already demonstrated that while some such unity is attainable, it is a unity of sympathy and mutual forbearance—a unity which cannot close itself in organisations, even by shutting the eye of conscience to wide divergences of real belief, under any form of authority. Does Protestantism witness for anything? Does it not attest the existence of a need in man's nature for the right of distinguishing between moral and religious truth for its own safety? Mr. Baring-Gould complains that Catholicism unites these two, whereas Protestantism separates them. "Schism," he says, "is negation, and negation is nothing in itself, and 'cannot bind any man's conscience'; which is repudiated by the history of living Churches for three centuries. 'If any man declares all 'that is within the range of his own belief, and 'admits as possible all that is believed by 'others, he is very near to the realisation of 'Catholicity.' But if Protestantism separates between morality and religion, it is only to keep open possible lines for practice. 'Whenever 'even the passive acquiescence in a belief effects 'the conscience and depresses it, then man is 'bound to protest, even though the protest lead 'to the doing of battle to the death,' says Protestantism; 'Every truth is possibly true to some, 'and therefore quietly acquiesce in it as possibly

* *Origin and Development of Religious Belief.* Vol. I. *Heathenism and Mosaism.* Vol. II. *Christianity.* By S. BARING-GOULD, M.A., Author of "Curious Myths of the Middle Ages," &c. (Rivingtons.)

"true," says Catholicism. This is very much the same requirement as Mr. Matthew Arnold has recently, in his peculiar gentle manner, urged on refractory English Dissenters. The evil of it is that religious dogma will on one side or another be constantly crossing the moral sense, and separating the two in determining noble action, without which the world would relapse into a second Paradise, but with less hope of continuance than the first one. And this also puts an end to effective missionary activity. If all forms of heathen religion contain truths which should be co-ordinated, with what authority could the missionary back his right to urge a higher rule? Would it have anyway helped the worthy Dubois, for instance, had he gone forth to India armed with this doctrine? We can scarcely think so. The Hindoos have a wonderful way of making Christianity only another form of the same truths as are embodied in Brahmanism. One essential necessity of man's condition here below is that he be permitted to fight for what is worthy in the soul's view; and the prevalence of such a Catholicism would simply open up to Christians a lazy lotus-land from which they would soon pray to be delivered. With regard to one point Mr. Baring-Gould does not quote Feuerbach where he might. That thinker writes:—

"The more the sensual tendencies are renounced, the more sensual is the God to whom they are sacrificed. For whatever is made an offering to God has an especial value attached to it; in it God is supposed to have especial pleasure. . . . Wherever, therefore, the denial of the sensual delights is made a special offering, a sacrifice well pleasing to God, there the highest value is attached to the senses, and the sensuality which has been renounced is unconsciously restored, in the fact that God takes the place of the material delights which have been renounced. The nun weds herself to God, she has a heavenly bridegroom, the monk a heavenly bride."

Mr. Baring-Gould's book is interesting, learned, ingenious; bringing contributions to his thesis from most divergent points, he fits them in with masterly completeness and logical consistency. Here and there, it is true, we are compelled to regard his structure-building as half-wasted labour; and, when we think of his recently-broached fears lest repressive measures used against those with whom religious fervour had "floated into splendour of worship," should issue in a new liberation party, we are the more grateful for passages here and there in the second volume which indicate a growing conviction that disestablishment is not far distant and may prove a benefit. It is not a very hopeful circumstance in view of the Catholicism, which regards as "possible all that is believed 'by others,' that Mr. Baring must write thus:—"Let those who meddle with the practices of 'public worship to curtail ceremonies, and one by one to extinguish its glories, know that they 'are offering thereby an insult to the Lord in 'Whom they say they believe. The prelate who 'will lavish thousands on the adornment of his 'palace, or on heavy insurance of his life for 'the benefit of wife and children, will persecute, 'and drive away from his Church, the poor 'curate, who, loving the Lord, better than him-'self, out of his slender income sacrifices a 'third to the adornment of the altar.' And again:—

"Far be it from me to assert that there is necessary opposition between the Church and the State. As long as the State confines the exercise of its authority to matters strictly within its sphere, and as long as the Church forbears from interference in political matters, there will be no clashing of interests. The office of the Church is to insist on the dogmatic basis of the rights of men, and on the consequent equality of those rights. The office of the state is to maintain those rights inviolate. Among the primordial rights of man is that of spiritual independence. If the State invade this right, antagonism springs up. If the Church persuade the State to use compulsion—that is, to violate a spiritual right—confusion is the consequence."

But here, too, Mr. Baring-Gould speculates; and his speculation and his practice do not agree so completely as the propositions of his book.

BRIEF NOTICES.

Cassell's Illustrated Catalogue for 1870. (Cassell, Petter, and Co., London and New York.) Messrs. Cassell are resolved to tempt the book-buying public, even amid the absorbing excitement of war. Probably no other firm could gather under one cover so rich and choice a collection of artistic gems as are contained in this superb catalogue. It comprises a score or more of the choicest of Doré's large engravings executed for the illustrated books of those enterprising publishers. They are got up with great finish on the finest toned paper, and are judiciously selected so as to reflect the varied styles and wonderful fancy of the great French artist. There are specimens of the illustrations contained in Doré's "Milton," "Dante," "Don Quixote," "Family Bible," &c., in their original form and size. The volume—which is in truth a splendid drawing book—is published at a marvellously low price. The publication of this catalogue is one of

the most noticeable features of the present book season, and is a memorial of the inexhaustible resources of the Ludgate-hill establishment.

Out on the Pampas; or, the Young Settlers. By G. A. HENTY. (London: Griffith and Farran.) This is the story of a family which emigrated to the Argentine Republic, and settled on the prairies near to Rosario. How they planted, and built, and gathered together flocks and herds, is told with a facile and informing pen. But the chief interest of the book is in the wonderful encounters of the Hardy family with hostile Indians, their hairbreadth escapes, and the prodigies of valour they performed. One of the scenes, in which the Hardy's and their neighbours pursued the savages, who had, after one of their bloody raids, carried off one of Mr. Hardy's daughters, and had nearly burnt her at the stake, recalls one of the thrilling incidents of "The Last of the Mohicans." Mr. Henty tells his story with skill and spirit, and we gather from it, though the conclusion may not be correct, that the Indians of North and South America are very much alike in their predatory characteristics. Those who have a taste for the marvellous exploits of young settlers in the slaughter of lawless savages with unerring carbines and revolvers, will find abundance of the sensational in this volume. It is undoubtedly a rattling "tale for boys," though we are somewhat doubtful of its tendency.

Walter's Escape; or the Capture of Breda. By J. B. DE LIEFERDE. With twelve illustrations. (Hodder and Stoughton.) A spirited tale for boys; interwoven with a page of Dutch history. The scene is chiefly laid in 1590, when the Prince of Orange was endeavouring to free his country from foreign domination. The capture of Breda and the siege of Giertruydenburg both play a part in the story; but their introduction into a tale of so short a compass gives the book a decidedly patch-work effect. Boys will no doubt like the story; but seeing what a large amount of lying it recounts, and how greatly this contributes to success throughout, we cannot recommend the book for their reading on the ground of its moral influence, notwithstanding one or two weak disclaimers of the author's personal approval, which it contains.

Madeleine's Trial, and Other Stories. By Madame PRESSENSE. Translated from the French by ANNIE HARWOOD. (Hodder and Stoughton.) A charming gift book for young people, elegantly got up, and illustrated with four engravings. Madame Pressense writes as a true artist. The style is simple and direct, and the delineations of character, sketched in a few lines, are natural and telling. The ease and grace with which the materials are combined, render the book both pleasing and effective throughout. In moral tone it is thoroughly healthy, without a word of moralising; and in religious tendency it is sufficiently decided, without being in the slightest degree "preachy." There are eight stories in the book, and while each of them is complete in so far as the evident purpose of the authoress is concerned, none is carried on beyond that point, for the mere pleasure of story-telling. It will certainly be welcomed by the young, and will, doubtless, whet their appetite for more from the same source. The following extract from "A Tale of Song and Sorrow," will afford a glimpse into the book:—

"John went a few steps into the courtyard of many of these houses, and then crept out again, dreading to be seen; and yet, what was the use of his coming if he did not mean to be both seen and heard? Yes, proud, shy boy as he was, the desperate idea had come into his head that he might sing in front of some of these strange houses, and so pick up a few pence, to save himself and his benefactor from starving. At last he came to a spacious court, on one side of which were clumps of large evergreen bushes and fir trees. Creeping a little behind these for shelter from the wind, and from observation, he reasoned once more with himself—'Artists are never ashamed to use their talents to get money, why should I mind whether I sing in the open air or in a concert-room? Ought I to be ashamed to take money just because we are so very poor?'"

"So with a brave resolve he began to sing a piece of Handel's. The first notes came hoarse and faint, and he began to fear that the fog or his hunger had taken away his natural voice. But after a few bars, the tones grew full and strong, and he heard a window opened, and saw shawled and muffled figures leaning out in curious wonderment.

"'It is a young boy's voice,' said one.

"'Oh, he must be so cold, mamma,' said another child; 'I can see him down there by the evergreens, and he has only got a jacket on.'

"'It is a splendid voice,' said an older speaker; 'but he won't keep it long singing in the open air in this way.'

"It was too cold to keep the window open for more than a few minutes, but before it was shut a little shower of pennies fell at John's feet. No one came out to ask who the young singer was, what drove him out on such a wintry afternoon, and why he could not use his gifts and earn money in a better and safer way. The children went back to their play by the warm nursery fire, and the elders to their work, leaving the stranger-lad to make his way as best he could through the wintry world without. So cold is charity in a great city."

The translator has evidently also done her work *con amore* and well.

Faithful unto Death; or, Susine and Claude of the Val Pellice. By ANNA CAROLINA DI TERGOLINA. (Nisbet.) A story of martyrdom, founded on the persecution of the Valdesi, told throughout in a strain of unrelieved sadness, and with undue stress upon the detail of blood with which it is interspersed. In work-

ing out the slightest of plots, the authoress evinces but little familiarity with human motives and modes of action, and not much appreciation of character, while the dullness and monotony thus imparted to the book cannot be said to be relieved by copious Scripture quotations, and the frequent insertion of Italian phrases. For our part, we cannot admire the piety that is painted of such a hue that it overlays what is natural and characteristic, and is made to find expression in a succession of pious phrases. Those who are fond of horrors will best appreciate the book. Some of the illustrations are very good, and the book is tastefully got up.

"*This Transitory Life.*" Seven Lectures. By the Rev. W. HUDSON. (London: Elliot Stock.) We learn from the preface that these lectures, "designed to help 'thoughtful young persons,' owe their preparation and publication to thoughts which arose during a period of illness. May not the greater comparative prominence which at that period such thoughts would naturally assume, have led the writer to attach undue importance to them as regards their merit for publication? Such is our impression of the work itself, and especially so when regarded in the light of the author's statements in the preface, wherein he gives us his own opinion of his performance as follows:—"I trust it is, so far as it 'goes, a positive addition to the practical theology 'of the day. At least I have no acquaintance with any 'treatise the place of which it can be, even apparently 'designed or adapted to take.' We can only say that we have failed to find in it any speciality of any kind, least of all theological. And this notwithstanding that the author speaks, in the preface, of the recurrence of certain thoughts, upon which the character of the book is specially dependent, and according to the value attached to which, 'whether it be much or little, will 'probably be the reader's judgment of the whole book.' We must confess our inability to find anything which should answer to this description; and we fear the author will be disappointed if he expects encouragement from this attempt to publish that second instalment to which he refers. As a series of lectures from the pulpit they may have been appropriate enough to the occasion, though possessing no special attractiveness or suitability for the young more than for others, either in matter or style of address. As a book they are certainly not attractive. We append a couple of sentences in illustration, adding our own italics.

"Every human being has the same essential faculties of moral mind, namely intellect, sensibility, and will; though individuals differ much in their capacities and developments. And every one is capable of God, and can therefore be religious; though some have become so degraded that they can bow down in worship, to the works of their own hands, and the powers of others are for a time suspended by disease."

Joe, the Gardener, and his Pupil. (Elliot Stock.) A brief narrative for the young, exemplifying the power of Gospel truth from unlettered lips, when supported by a consistent life, to impress the heart of a child. The simplicity of the truth, as apart from creeds and formularies, is an object of illustration in the story.

Amongst the illustrated books which Messrs. Cassell and Co. are bringing out to meet the expected demands of the Christmas season are the following:—*Tales of the Saracens*, a collection of historical tales by BARBARA HUTTON, founded on the fruitful incidents of the great Crusaders; *Stories of the Olden Time*, being adaptations for modern juveniles of tales from De Joinville and Froissart. *Lottie's White Frock* and *Dr. Savory's Tongs and Other Tales*, with illustrations in colours. These stories are short and of good tendency. Younger children are catered for in Mrs. Trimmer's ever fresh *History of the Robins and Odd Stories about Animals*, told in monosyllables, and illustrated by Harrison Weir. *Little Blackcap and Other Tales* is designed for the same class. *Home Chat with our Young Folks* is a mine of useful and varied information—a small cyclopædia—upon things in general, but the cuts, though abundant, are of very unequal merit.

The Natural History of Commerce. With a Copious List of Commercial Terms and their Synonyms in Several Languages. By JOHN YEATS, LL.D., assisted by several scientific gentlemen. (Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.) Dr. Yeats has got hold of an excellent idiom, and seems to have carried it out very well. There is a vast mass of information condensed here into readable and accessible form, and the volume should be found very useful in schools and offices. It is well printed, and altogether looks a solid book.

Adventures of a Young Naturalist. By LUCIEN BIART. Edited and adapted by PARKER GILLMORE. (London: Sampson, Low, Son and Co.) This very handsome volume will be one of the most attractive gift-books that can well be imagined to a youth fond of natural history. It is the record of an adventurous journey through the Cordilleras of Mexico by "Master "Lucien," his father, and a couple of companions, one of them an Indian. The main object of the travellers was insect hunting. In their journey of three hundred leagues they skirted the volcano of Orizava, traversed the prairies and forests of the Terre-Claude, visited the lagoons and great rivers, as well as a number of Indian villages. There were exciting adventures and narrow escapes from wild beasts—the voracious alligator, the stealthy puma, and the bloodthirsty jaguar, as well as bisons, wolves, and venomous reptiles. The qualities

and uses of everything notable seen are described in detail, with fairness of knowledge, and in a natural way in the conversations which take place, from time to time, between the explorers, so that, in some three hundred pages, a great mass of information is compressed. The remarkable feature of the volume is its illustrations, of which there are over a hundred, some of them of grand and beautiful scenery, and executed with that pictorialness of effect in which French artists so much excel. These wood-cuts will be a source of interest to young and old, as giving a vivid representation of grand and wild scenery hardly to be surpassed in any country. We envy the lad who will receive as a Christmas present this record of an adventurous journey through the Cordilleras.

Among the crowd of Christmas numbers we have only had time to glance at two: *Good Cheer*, and *Only Once a Year*, edited by Henry Mayhew. These contrast in many ways. *Good Cheer* is all written by one lady—Miss Catherine Saunders—and has only one story, "Gideon's Rock," against which it might be urged, as its only fault, that it is scarcely cheerful. It rather tends the other way, indeed, having large infusion of sombre and tragic elements. But it is told with vigour and truth, and has the merit of compelling the reader to read on. *Only Once a Year* is duly varied; and, though it has one serious tale by Mr. S. Baring-Gould, of an order far above the usual run of Christmas stories, it has a certain character with it. The fun is rather broad, albeit laugh-provoking, in some of the others; and ghosts, which in these days of Huxley and the rest, should hide their diminished heads, rather too frequently appear carrying their heads, if anything, too high. But a taste of ghosts is wholesome at Christmas, and a little fun is a sufficient relief to it. There is dry humour in Jack Doubleday, and Abel Craike is not without a lesson, though he "laughs consumedly." Mr. Purves gives a poem, *City Petitions*, which is in season, and well deserves quoting. These are two stanzas—all we can afford to give:—

"Peace! that we once may hear
Thy whispering in our hearts' unsevered beat,
And, through the jangling noises of the street,
May know that One is waiting ever near
To guide the uncertain feet."

"Life! that we may have time
To do some work for Thee, to leave some mark."
Whereby a brother, stumbling through the dark,
May catch the signal his soul to climb
Straight heavenward, like the lark.

ACCIDENT TO THE IRISH MAIL RAIN AND LOSS OF LIFE.

Two accidents have happened in connection with the Irish mail within twenty-four hours. One of them caused the immediate death of six or seven persons; the other had no fatal results, but was equally dangerous. The up train on Saturday morning, on coming out of the Watford tunnel, ran into some empty cattle wagons which were in course of being shunted. The obstruction, fortunately, was not heavy enough to occasion a severe collision, and the only reported disaster was to the engine of the mail, which was overturned, and stopped the traffic for two or three hours. On the evening of the same day the down mail left Euston-square, as usual at five o'clock. It stopped to take up City passengers at Willesden Junction, and then rushed on at its usual speed of forty miles an hour for a long stage of its journey. But a goods train was, of course, ahead of it. There ought, it is said, to have been twenty minutes to spare. But a mishap occurred at Harrow in the process of shunting, and the mail came dashing on before due warning could be given, or at least perceived. It was a heavy train, dragged by two locomotives, and perhaps, in one way, this dead weight in front was of advantage in breaking the force of the accident. The first engine and tender were dashed to bits, the second were thrown off the line, and the nearest passenger carriages were completely smashed. Seven persons were killed on the spot, and, to judge by the report, several others are dangerously injured. The inquest on the bodies of the seven persons killed in the collision at Harrow on Saturday evening was opened on Monday by Dr. Diplock, and, after the bodies had been identified, and some other preliminary evidence taken, the inquiry was adjourned till Thursday. A traveller by the train which immediately followed the express and reached Harrow a few minutes after the accident happened, states that, although the signals were burning brightly, the evening was so very foggy that they could be seen only a short distance off. He adds that the express due at Euston at 5.15 p.m. had a very narrow escape. It was late, and passed Harrow a few minutes only before the collision. Had it been a little later, the loss of life must have been much larger, as the up line was completely blocked.

THE HAT OF THE FUTURE.—Germany, to which we owe the easy Tyrolean hat, intends to reform the chimney-pot of fashionable society. Eighty representatives of the leading hat manufacturers of the Fatherland have met in solemn conclave for this purpose. Fourteen models were presented to the meeting, from which three were chosen by a jury of ten experts. All three came from the workshops of Berlin, and after long deliberation one of the three was finally selected as the hat of the future.

Miscellaneous.

NEWPORT ELECTION.—This election took place on Wednesday. Mr. Clifford, the Liberal, headed the poll throughout the day, and after a time the Conservatives ceased to issue any return. At the close the numbers were as follows:—

Clifford	437
Kennard	351
Majority for Clifford	86

LIBERATOR BUILDING SOCIETY.—We desire to call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of this society in our issue of to-day. They will observe that this flourishing society has outgrown the narrow limits of its first offices, and has been compelled to remove to more commodious premises in King William-street, E.C. (near the Monument). There is no existing society with which we are acquainted which has so rapidly developed a large and successful business; and we feel sure its increase is mainly due to the confidence which attaches to its directorate, and which should ensure a continuance of that support from all persons interested in the success of these valuable national institutions.

NORWICH ELECTION PETITION.—The Court of Common Pleas on Thursday decided the important point involved in the election petition from Norwich against the return of Mr. Tillett. That gentleman, after his failure in 1868, petitioned against Sir H. Stracey and claimed the seat. Recriminatory charges were made against him; and when he withdrew his claim for the seat, these charges were withdrawn, and Baron Martin reported that nothing was proved against him. In the pending petition these charges were in effect repeated; but they were struck out by Justice Byles. The Court held that there were nothing in the statutes or Parliamentary usage to estop the present petitioner from going into allegations of improper practices at a former election; and so the paragraphs which had been struck out were ordered to be reinserted.

The BOARD OF TRADE returns for the past month again show an increase in the exportations of British goods and produce. Compared with the corresponding month of last year they present an excess of 1,095,908*l.*, or 6½ per cent., and on the corresponding month of 1868 an excess of 4 per cent., although, for the first time for a long period, there has been a considerable falling off in the shipments of iron. In those of cotton yarn there has been an increase of 23 per cent. in value, and 32 per cent. in quantity, and in those of cotton manufactures an increase of 10 per cent. in value and 23 per cent. in quantity. There has also been an increase of 4 per cent. in the value of our shipments of haberdashery, 11 per cent. in linen manufactures, 84 per cent. in silk manufactures, owing to the interruption of the French trade; 1 per cent. in woollen manufactures, and 17 per cent. in the large class of articles comprised under the head of "Miscellaneous." On the other hand, there has been a decrease of 4 per cent. in the value of our shipments of coal, 11 per cent. in earthenware, 2 per cent. in hardware, 5 per cent. in machinery, and 11 per cent. in iron. Of arms and ammunition our total consignments amounted to £336,251, against £102,776 in the corresponding month of 1869. The importations of the month comprised 3,060,794 cwt. of wheat, being about 33 per cent. less than in the same month last year; and 1,005,638 cwt. of cotton, being more than 10 per cent. in excess of October, 1869. Of our importations of wheat about 40 per cent. was from Russia.

Gleanings.

Mr. Martin F. Tupper is about to give readings from his own works, in St. James's Hall.

Dr. Guthrie is about to publish a series of articles in the *Sunday Magazine*, the result of his inquiries into the charities of London.

Mr. Mill is to set forth his views on the obligations of treaties, in detail, in the forthcoming number of the *Fortnightly Review*.

From the details of a case heard before the County magistrates at Lancaster, on Saturday, it appears that horseflesh occasionally finds its way into the London market as "sausage meat."

There reached London from Liverpool on Friday a train which consisted of thirteen covered goods wagons with chests containing seventy-four tons of Mexican dollars, value nearly half a million sterling.

A local paper, describing the cheers with which Mr. E. P. Youell was received at the Yarmouth rifle battalion supper, says he was "greeted with voracious applause!"

Mr. Alfred R. Wallace, President of the Entomological Society, has ready for publication, "An answer to the Arguments of Hume, Lecky, and others against Miracles."

The miscellaneous and posthumous works of Mr. Buckle, in three volumes, edited by Miss Helen Taylor, with a short biography of the author, will be published before the close of the year.

Mr. C. A. Washburn, late United States Minister resident in Paraguay, has a history of that country in the press, with "Notes of Diplomacy under Difficulties."

It is announced that a new Mint is to be erected in Whitefriars, with a frontage on the Northern Embankment, and between the Temple and the City

Gas Works. The present Mint on Little Tower-hill will be sold or leased when the new one is completed.

The admirers of Mr. Herbert's grand fresco in the Houses of Parliament, "Moses giving the Law on Mount Sinai," will be glad to learn that the same artist is engaged upon a companion work, "Daniel giving Judgment in the case of Susanna and the Elders."

The *Christian Union* says that Dr. Lyman Beecher often related the following anecdote: "Old Father—preached six sermons to show who Melchizedek was, and closed his last sermon with this summary: 'And so we see, brethren, that we don't know who Melchizedek was, and that it 'taint no matter.'"

ARTIFICIAL ICE.—The *New York Times* gives an account of a machine on exhibition at the Morgan Iron Works, which is daily producing a most superior quality of ice perfectly clear, and more compact than ice made by natural freezing. A Tellier machine will make 100 tons per day at a cost of 1*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* per ton. Ice made by these machines is more durable than that made by nature, for this ice is frozen at a temperature from zero to five degrees below. The ice is as pure as the Croton. It can be made perfectly transparent by expelling the air from the water, or using distilled water, if such a course should be desirable.

FRENCH ENGLISH.—Many curious and, in the light of recent events, rather sad stories, have been going the round of the papers, as to the French ignorance of the geography, manners, and language of their neighbours. In an hotel at Dieppe we recently noticed on the *carte*, which was printed in letters of gold, in parallel columns of English and French, the following among other amusing announcements:—"Beef-steak, with the tumbled potatoes. Soup at the queen. A quail at the ashes. Lobster with sharp sauce, according the bigness. Dabs of divers dimensions"; and at the foot of the wine list, "French and stranger bears."—*Guardian*.

THE COMING SOLAR ECLIPSE.—*Nature* states that, as at present arranged, the eclipse expedition will comprise four parties. Beginning with Spain, we have one to Cadiz, in charge of the Rev. J. S. Perry, and one to Gibraltar, under Captain Noble. The English branch of the Anglo-American expedition will be under the charge of Mr. Lookyer; while there will be a fourth small expedition, under the charge of Mr. Huggins, to Oran. The Cadiz, Gibraltar, and Oran parties will leave Portsmouth on the 5th of December in the *Urgent*. The Sicilian party will leave London on the night of the 7th prox. by the Brenner Pass, a ship of war meeting them at Naples.

NOTICE.—All announcements intended for this column must be accompanied by a remittance of half-a-crown in postage-stamps.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

DEATHS.

BARKER.—Nov. 23, at his residence, Stratford-road, Birmingham, the Rev. Professor Barker, of Springhill College, aged seventy-one. Friends will please accept this notice.

TOLLER.—Nov. 26, at Kettering, Elizabeth, widow of the late Rev. Thomas Northcote Toller, in the ninety-second year of her age. Friends will kindly accept this intimation.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending Wednesday, Nov. 23.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£36,344,370	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	3,984,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion	21,344,370
	£36,344,370		£36,344,370

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,563,000	Government Securities (Inc. dead weight annuity)	£12,025,832
Reserve	3,114,588	Other Securities	16,114,632
Public Deposits	5,651,038	Notes	15,322,680
Other Deposits	18,781,459	Gold & Silver Coin	852,593
Seven Day and other Bills	1,005,684		
	£43,116,767		£43,116,767

Nov. 24, 1870.

GEO. FORBES, Chief Cashier.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—CHEST AND STOMACH COMPLAINTS.—The source and centre of almost every ailment is impurity of the blood,—dislodge this poison, and disease departs. Holloway's Pills exercise the inestimable power of thoroughly cleansing each component of the blood, and rendering that fluid fit to perform its important functions. They cope most successfully with chest diseases, stomach complaints, liver disorders, and many other maladies which are at certain seasons the besetting dangers of mankind in town and country. The directions for use enable every one to regulate the operation of these pills with the greatest nicety. Chronic invalids, nervous sufferers, and all whom other treatment has failed to relieve, are respectfully invited to try Holloway's celebrated medicine, which will strengthen and cure them.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, MARK LANE, Monday, Nov. 23.

The show of English wheat was small this morning, but arrivals from abroad are liberal. We had a slow trade, and English wheat was 1*s.* per qr. lower since this day week. The same decline was submitted to on foreign wheat, especially on American qualities. Flour was 1*s.* per sack and barrel lower. Peas and beans were steady. Barley supported previous prices. Indian corn was in moderate demand, at the quotations. One arrival of oats are of fair extent. They met a good sale, at the prices of Monday last. At the ports of call, arrivals during the past week have been larger, and only a limited business has been done, at fully previous prices.

BREAD, London, Saturday, Nov. 26.—The prices in the Metropolis are, for Wheatens Bread, per 4lbs. loaf, 7½d. to 8d.; Household Bread, 6½d. to 7d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, Nov. 28.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 12,463 head. In the corresponding week in 1869 we received 12,471; in 1868, 3,817; in 1867, 11,833; and in 1866, 9,373 head. The cattle trade to-day, owing to the depression in the dead meat market, consequent upon the mildness of the weather, ruled very dull. Supplies, however, were short, and, as might be anticipated from the state of the pastures, the condition of the stock—particularly of the sheep—was inferior. The number of beasts on sale was under the average, but there were some good Scotch animals exhibited. The trade was quiet, and, except in some few occasional instances, when some choice Scotch heifers made 6s. per 8lbs., prices were without material change. The general top quotation was 5s. 10d. per 8lbs. From Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire we received about 1,250 short-horns, &c.; from other parts of England about 300 of various breeds; from Scotland about 250 Scots and crosses; and from Ireland, about 130 oxen, &c. There was a small show of sheep, and prime stock was scarce. The inquiry was very limited, but rates were supported in consequence of the moderate number on sale. The top price for choice Down and half-bred wethers was 6s. per 8lbs. Calves and pigs met a quiet sale, on former terms.

For 8lbs. to sink the Offal.

	a.	d.	s.	d.		a.	d.	s.	d.		
Inf. coarse beasts	3	4	to	4	2	Prime Southdown	5	10	to	6	0
Second quality	4	4	to	4	8	Lamba	0	0	to	0	0
Prime large oxen	5	2	to	5	8	Lgs. cos. to calves	3	6	to	4	0
Prime 8c. to 8c.	5	8	to	5	10	Prime 7½	5	0	to	5	10
Coarse inf. sheep	3	4	to	3	8	Large 1½	4	4	to	5	2
Second quality	3	10	to	4	6	Neaten. porkers	5	6	to	6	2
Pr. coarse woolled	4	10	to	5	6						

Suckling calves, 00s. to 00s., and quarter-old store pigs, 22s. to 26s. each.

METROPOLITAN MEAT MARKET, Monday, Nov. 28.—Our market has been moderately supplied with meat. The trade has been dull, at our quotations. The imports into London last week consisted of 12 packages from Rotterdam, 19 Harlingen, 49 Tonnin, 488 Hamburg, and 77 Antwerp.

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.

	s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.
Inferior beef .	3	0	to	3	4	Prime ditto .	4	10	5	2	
Middling ditto .	3	8	to	4	2	Veal . . .	4	8	5	4	
Prime large do.	4	8	5	0		Large pork .	8	4	3	8	
Do. small do.	5	0	5	2		Small pork .	4	8	5	4	
Inf. mutton .	3	8	4	0		Lamb . . .	0	0	0	0	
Middling ditto .	4	2	4	6							

PROVISIONS, Monday, Nov. 28.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 631 firkins butter, and 3,932 bales bacon, and from foreign ports 26,258 packages butter, and 898 bales bacon. In the Irish butter market no change to notice, sales very limited. Foreign advanced about 1½s. per cwt. Irish was more inquired for, and prime parcels saleable at advanced rates. Bacon sold well, and a good business done in all descriptions without change in value. Lard sold better.

COVENT GARDEN MARKET, Saturday, Nov. 26.—Very little variation is experienced here, but good articles are in better request. The supply of common descriptions of pears and apples being, however, very heavy, and difficult of disposal at paying rates. Among the latest arrivals are Malta, Mandarin, and Tangerine oranges. Jersey arrivals have been moderate. Amongst flowers we have Orchids, Chrysanthemums, Heaths, and dwarf evergreens.

BOROUGH HOP MARKET, Monday, Nov. 28.—We have no material change to report in our market. Low and medium qualities are attracting more attention, but are still in great abundance. Choice hops fully maintain recent quotations. No alteration is reported in European markets; one hope, both of Bohemia and Bavaria, are exceedingly firm, and command full values, while ordinary grades are easier. More attention has of late been paid to Belgians, occasioning a rise of 2s. to 8s. per cwt. Imports up to the present date amount to 10,612 bales. A better inquiry prevails for 1868 and yearling Americans, which has resulted in some important sales. Latest advices from New York report trade as dull, with a great scarcity of choice hops. Mid and East Kent, 11. 15s., 31. 10s. to 71. 0s.; Wealds, 11. 15s., 31. 0s., 31. 15s.; Sussex, 11. 10s., 21. 6s. to 31. 10s.; Farnham and country, 31. 15s., 41. 15s., to 61. 6s.; Olds, 11. 0s., 11. 15s., to 11. 10s.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS.—Monday, Nov. 28.—These markets have been fairly supplied with potatoes. The trade has been steady at our quotations. The import into London last week consisted of 50 packages from Amsterdam, and 8 from Rotterdam. English Regents, 60s. to 65s. per ton; Scotch Regents, 55s. to 60s. per ton; Rocks, 45s. to 55s. per ton.

SEED, Monday, Nov. 28.—There was a limited supply of red cloverseed, held at high rates. From common to prime there is a large range in prices. Foreign samples were held for quite as much money. In Trefoil not much passed, and no quotable change took place. New white mustardseed was offered on former terms, and was rather more inquired for. Winter tares were placed in small lots, at quite as much money. English canaryseed realised former rates, with a steady sale. In grass seeds not any alteration to quote. Spring tares are now being inquired for, and foreign samples would sell steadily.

WOOL, Monday, Nov. 28.—The wool trade has been steady, but the transactions in English wool continue to be on a moderate scale. The demand is chiefly for good wether and half-bred wools, for which prices are well sustained, they being very scarce. Noils and broken are in demand for the manufacture of army materials.

OIL, Monday, Nov. 28.—Linsed oil has been in moderate request. Rape has been firm. Olive oil has changed hands slowly. Coconut has advanced on the week, owing to the rise in the value of tallow. Other oils have been steady in value, but the demand for them has not been active.

TALLOW, Monday, Nov. 28.—The market has been quiet. Y.C., on the spot, 4½s. per cwt. Town Tallow, 43s. 3d. net cash.

COAL, Monday, Nov. 28.—Market heavy, at last day's rates. Hettens Wallsend, 19s.; Hettens Lyons, 17s.; Hettens Braddys, 18s.; Haswell, 19s.; Hawthorn, 17s.; Eden Main, 17s. 6d.; Holywell Main, 17s.; Hartley, 16s. 3d. Ships fresh arrived (all screw steamers) 25. Ships left from last day, 1. Total, 26. Ships at sea, 45.

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BROOCHES, NINEVEH, „ £3 0

BROOCHES, SAXON, „ £4 0

BROOCHES, EGYPTIAN, „ £5 0

CHAINS, PRINCESS, „ £2 0

CHAINS, CYLINDER, „ £3 0

CHAINS, CURB, „ £4 0

CHAINS, CABLE, „ £5 0

EARRINGS, ETRUSCAN, „ £1 10

EARRINGS, SAXON, „ £2 5

EARRINGS, EGYPTIAN, „ £3 5

EARRINGS, NINEVEH, „ £4 10

LOCKETS, ENGRAVED, „ £1 0

LOCKETS, CORDED, „ £2 10

LOCKETS, CROSS, „ £4 0

GOLD WATCHES, LADIES', £8 8

GOLD WATCHES, „ £10 10

GOLD WATCHES, ½-PLATE, £15 15

GOLD WATCHES (HUNTING), £11 11

GOLD WATCHES, ¾-PLATE, £16 16

GOLD WATCHES, „ £20 0

GOLD WATCHES, KEYLESS £15 10

GOLD WATCHES, „ £22 0

GOLD WATCHES (HUNTING), £18 18

CLOCKS, CARRIAGE, £5 0

CLOCKS, „ (STRIKING), £7 7

CLOCKS, „ „ (ON GONG), £12 12

CLOCKS, LIBRARY (MARBLE), £4 0

CLOCKS, „ „ „ £10 12

CLOCKS, „ „ „ £14 0

CLOCKS, „ „ (ORMOLU), £10 0

CLOCKS, „ „ „ £15 0

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